



*Unlocking Regional Potential through Sustainable Investment*

# 1st OMVG INVESTORS' FORUM

## 16 - 17 june 2025




FINAL REPORT



*RIVER BASINS*

# GAMBIA
# KOLIBA / CORUBAL & KAYANGA / GEBA

- OCTOBER 2025 -

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Énergie 1

# FOREWORD

The first Investors' Forum of the Master Plan for Integrated Development of the Gambia River Basin Development Organisation (OMVG) was held in Dakar on 16 and 17 June 2025, under the theme: "**Unlocking Regional Potential through Sustainable Investment**".

It was organised a few months after the Conference of Heads of State and Government held in Banjul in December 2024, following which the OMVG's governing bodies were renewed.

For the Member States and the new leadership of OMVG, this event marked a decisive step towards implementing the investment programme under the Master Plan, which serves as a reference framework and genuine roadmap for the harmonised development of the Gambia, Kayanga/Geba, and Koliba/Corubal river basins by 2040.

The Forum brought together representatives of OMVG Member States (The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal), donors, private investors, sector experts, and multilateral development institutions. It provided an opportunity to present in detail a portfolio of six strategic priority projects spanning key sectors such as agriculture, energy, infrastructure, basic services, environment, and governance.

These priority projects were selected from a baseline list of 26 projects, out of the total portfolio of 179, with the aim of initiating the transition towards the implementation of second-generation infrastructure.

OMVG aims to mobilise the financial resources needed to implement the Master Plan for Integrated Development (Master Plan), thereby continuing decades of efforts that led to the realisation of first-generation infrastructure.

This report presents the outcomes of the discussions and activities. It is structured as follows:

- Presentation of the context and objectives of the Forum
- Proceedings of the various sessions and activities
- Summary of the intentions and commitments of the partners
- Recommendations to strengthen the preparation and implementation of Master Plan for Integrated Development (PDDI) projects

This summary launches the post-forum phase by providing participants, the public, and potential investors and partners with relevant information on OMVG's priority projects and the commitments made.

Its dissemination illustrates OMVG's commitment to mobilising all stakeholders and partners working alongside it to rise to the challenges it faces, particularly in integrated development based on regional cooperation, sustainable management, and enhancement of shared water resources.

# OMVG INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

# PDDI

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS




The Gambia River Basin Development Organisation (OMVG) wishes to express its deepest appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of the first Investors' Forum for the Master Plan, held in Dakar on 16 and 17 June 2025.

Our special thanks go to:

- **The Heads of State** of the OMVG member countries (The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal) for their commitment and constant support for the organisation's missions.
- **The Government of the Republic of Senegal** for its warm hospitality and the excellent working conditions provided to all participants.
- **The Ministers** of the Member States, in particular Hon. Aboubacar Camara, Minister of Energy, Water Resources, and Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Guinea and current Chairman of the OMVG Council of Ministers, for their leadership and active participation in the debates.
- **The Technical and Financial Partners** (United Nations Capital Development Fund, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, IUCN), for their financial support and their strategic and technical contribution to the development of the Master Plan and the organisation of the forum.
- **The Donors** to the Energy Project for their strong mobilisation during the forum.
- **The Private Investors** for their interest and willingness to invest in the OMVG region.
- **The Sector Experts** for their valuable knowledge and advice.
- **The Moderators and Panellists** for their contribution to the organisation and success of the forum.
- **All the participants and speakers** for their presence, attentive listening and enriching contribution.
- **All the OMVG staff** for their hard work and dedication in organising this major event.

We are convinced that this forum has laid the foundations for a lasting and fruitful partnership for the development of the region.

**The OMVG High Commissioner**
**Mr Demba JALLOW**



# ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| **AHA** | Hydro-agricultural development |
| **AHE** | Hydropower Project |
| **BAD** | African Development Bank |
| **BEI** | European Investment Bank |
| **FAE** | African Water Facility |
| **BM** | World Bank |
| **BID** | Islamic Development Bank |
| **BIDC** | ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development |
| **BOOT** | Build - Own - Operate - Transfer |
| **CEDEAO** | Economic Community of West African States |
| **DDC** | Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation |
| **EUR** | EURO official currency of the euro zone |
| **KfW** | Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau |
| **Km** | Kilometer |
| **MW** | Megawatt |
| **PDDI** | Master Plan for Integrated Development |
| **PPP** | Public-Private Partnership |
| **PTF** | Technical and Financial Partners |
| **USD** | United States Dollar |
| **OMVG** | Gambia River Basin Development Organisation |
| **OMVS** | Senegal River Basin Development Organisation |
| **UEMOA** | West African Economic and Monetary Union |
| **UICN** | International Union for Conservation of Nature |
| **UNCDF** | United Nations Capital Development Fund |
| **WAPP** | West African Power Pool |

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OMVG held its 1st **Investors' Forum** to mobilise funding for its **Master Plan for Integrated Development (PDDI 2040)**.

The main theme of this major event was: "**Unlocking Regional Potential through Sustainable Investment**".

The objective of the forum, held on 16 and 17 June 2025 in Dakar, was to present a portfolio of structuring projects and to attract public and private financing for agriculture, energy, water and sanitation, health, environment, and infrastructure.

The first day was marked by **the official opening** chaired by Honourable Aboubacar CAMARA, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, in the presence of the line Ministers of The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal and the Minister of Tourism of The Gambia, as the guest of honour. Several senior authorities from the Member States and representatives of partner institutions took part in the opening ceremony.

An **introductory presentation** of OMVG, focusing on the Master Plan, gave participants an insight into the organisation's institutional framework and strategic reference framework. The focus was on the 26 priority projects programmed for the medium term.

**Two high-level panels** on (1) The role of basin organisations in regional integration and (2) Access to finance and guarantee mechanisms (AfDB, WB, UNCDF) were organised with the line Ministers, the High Commissioner and the Technical and Financial Partners as panellists.

These panels made it possible to identify the main issues, risks and challenges, while formulating recommendations for strengthening the integration process led by the basin organisations and ensuring sustainable funding for regional projects and programmes focusing on the management and development of shared water resources.

To close the first day, a **deal-room** was organised for a detailed presentation of the 6 structuring projects: the Campossa hydro-agricultural scheme in Guinea-Bissau, the Digan, Kourawel and Fello Soungha (Guinea) and Sambangalou (Senegal) hydropower schemes.

Direct discussions on the portfolio of priority projects took place in the form of **sectoral speed dating**, providing an opportunity to present the projects in greater depth to interested investors. The portfolio as a whole represents a total amount of around **USD 2.97 billion**.

The second day of the forum was marked by testimonies from stakeholders and resource persons, tracing the historical background to the creation of OMVG and its development, the main reforms undertaken, the crucial phase of carrying out studies, the first fund-raising operations in the form of round tables, the start-up of the Energy Project through its two components (interconnection line and Sambangalou HPP) and finally the formulation of the Master Plan and its joint investment plan.

These testimonies provided an opportunity to appreciate the efforts of the founding fathers and leaders of the Organisation and to confirm the major role of the basin organisations (OMVS, OMVG), as a completed model of transboundary cooperation and living proof that shared water management is a powerful lever for development and stability.

Following these testimonies, discussions with the participants provided an opportunity to gather recommendations, intentions and commitments from partners, in particular:

- **The Adour-Garonne Water Agency** expressed a keen interest in long-term cooperation with the OMVG, through technical and financial support for water governance, sanitation and access to drinking water, particularly in isolated and vulnerable transboundary areas.
- **The Islamic Development Bank** has announced an initial commitment of **€ 100M**, which will be used primarily to complete the financing of Saltinho, Sambangalou and Campossa, and to fund studies in various areas such as the regional observatory, monitoring of water resources and access to drinking water.
- **The African Development Bank**, a long-standing supporter of the Organisation already involved in financing the studies and construction of Saltinho and the studies for Digan, Kourawel and Campossa, has assured OMVG of its willingness to explore ways of supporting the mobilisation of the private sector.
- **The World Bank**, like the AfDB and IsDB, is a leading partner, and reaffirmed its commitment to continuing its support for the densification of electricity interconnection lines, the implementation of Hydropower Projects (Saltinho, Digan, Kourawel, Fello Sounga) and the mobilisation of its internal instruments to finance studies through grants and structure PPP projects.

**The main suggestions and recommendations were as follows**:

- **Structuring immature projects** (technical, financial and environmental studies).
- **Setting up a post-forum monitoring framework** to track commitments and project maturity.
- **Developing bankable projects** that meet Donor standards (financial plans, risk analyses, guarantees).
- **Strengthening the involvement of the private sector** and capitalising on OMVG's in-house expertise.

In conclusion, the forum made it possible to present a strategic portfolio of projects and to secure significant financial commitments (AfDB, IsDB, WB, Agence de l'Eau Garonne). The discussions confirmed the central role of the OMVG as the driving force behind regional cooperation. Success will now depend on **project structuring**, **technical maturity** and **rigorous monitoring of commitments**.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The 1st Investors' Forum for the OMVG Master Plan, held under the theme of "***Unlocking Regional Potential through Sustainable Investment***", took place from 16 to 17 June 2025 in the Conference Room of the King FAHD Hotel in Dakar, Senegal, under the chairmanship of **Hon. Aboubacar CAMARA**, Minister of Energy, Water Resources, and Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Guinea, current Chairman of the OMVG Council of Ministers.

The aim of the Investors' Forum was to mobilise funding for the OMVG Master Plan, a strategic reference framework designed to promote the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and the implementation of structuring projects for its Member States.

Born of the common desire of The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal to develop the basins of the Gambia, Kayanga/Geba and Koliba/Corubal rivers and their tributaries, this forum was organised with the support of Member States and strategic regional partners. It provided a framework for dialogue and cooperation aimed at accelerating sub-regional integration and stimulating investment.

The event was also a major step in mobilising technical and financial partners, as well as public and private investors, around the region's sustainable development priorities.

The Master Plan, a roadmap for the harmonised development of the three OMVG basins, is based on six key pillars:

1. Strengthening agricultural, livestock, forestry and fishing systems to guarantee food security and improve people's livelihoods;
2. Developing energy, mining, industrial and craft potential to support inclusive, green growth;
3. Developing transport infrastructure and communication systems to strengthen integration and access to markets;
4. Improving drinking water supply, sanitation and health services to enhance the well-being of communities;
5. Protection of the environment and the resilience of ecosystems in the face of Climate Change; and.
6. The promotion of knowledge, governance and sustainable management of Water Resources for concerted and effective planning.

This forum, which is part of the regional drive for sustainable investment, aims to mobilise innovative financing and establish sustainable partnerships to transform the potential of the three basins, which can be summarised as follows, into a driving force for economic and social development serving the people:

- **A major human capital and geographical entity: 4 countries** : **4 countries** around de **3 catchment areas,** home to a population of **4 million people** over an area of **118 000 km²**.
- **Considerable Water Resources**, including more than **20 billion m³ of surface water** managed collectively by the 4 Member States and significant shared potential in **underground resources.**
- **A major energy potential** of almost **500 MW** planned and **1700 km already laid.**
- **Potential for economic and social development**, with the possibility of irrigating almost **100,000 hectares** to ensure food security for our populations, and offering several hundred km of **navigable waterways**.

## 1.1 Forum objectives

The objectives of the OMVG Investors' Forum were to mobilise public and private funding for the flagship projects included in the Master Plan. This high-level event was organised to, among other things, facilitate the emergence of innovative and sustainable Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), while raising the profile of a portfolio of bankable, multi-sector projects covering key areas such as: (i) agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries, (ii) energy, mining, industry and crafts, (iii) transport and communications, (iv) drinking water supply, sanitation and health, (v) the environment and ecosystems and (vi) knowledge, management and governance of water resources .

The forum was also intended to provide a forum for constructive dialogue between the governments of the OMVG member countries, donors, bilateral and multilateral partners, private investors, sub-regional institutions and technical, teaching and research institutions, in order to build synergies, speed up the implementation of projects and contribute to the sustainable development of the OMVG area.



## 1.2 Background and justification

The mission of the Gambia River Basin Development Organisation (OMVG), which brings together The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, is to promote coordinated and integrated management of shared natural resources, in particular those of the Gambia, Kayanga/Geba, Koliba/Corubal river basins and their tributaries, in order to contribute to the socio-economic and environmental development of its Member States.

Despite the progress made in recent years, the OMVG countries continue to face major structural challenges in several strategic sectors.

Agriculture, livestock farming, forestry and fishing remain insufficiently modernised and vulnerable to climatic hazards, limiting their capacity to guarantee food security and generate sustainable income for rural populations.

The energy sector, although undergoing rapid change, is marked by a lack of access to reliable and affordable energy, which is holding back industrialisation, mining development, processing and the growth of craft industries.

Transport and communications infrastructures require substantial investment to improve regional connectivity, boost trade and support economic integration.

Furthermore, access to drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and health services remains a major challenge in many rural and peri-urban areas, compromising the objectives of well-being and public health. These issues are exacerbated by environmental threats, notably the degradation of ecosystems, pollution, demographic pressure and the effects of Climate Change, all of which call for concerted and sustainable action.

In response to these challenges, the OMVG Member States have drawn up national development policies and plans (NDPs) as part of their long-term visions, such as Vision 2040 and sectoral strategies. These reference documents focus on the structural transformation of economies, the sustainable development of natural resources and the promotion of massive investment in regional infrastructure.

The investors' forum on 16 and 17 June 2025 is fully in line with this approach, providing a strategic platform for presenting donors, technical and financial partners and private investors with a portfolio of bankable, structuring projects in the priority areas identified.

This call for investors and donors is in response to a desire to mobilise innovative and diversified funding to accelerate the implementation of OMVG regional projects, which are catalysts for inclusive growth and sustainable development. It also aims to strengthen Public-Private Partnerships, attract foreign capital, consolidate regional cooperation and translate the shared ambitions of the Member States into concrete actions.

This forum thus represents a major step in the implementation of the major integrated programmes of the OMVG, helping to make the basins of the Gambia, Kayanga/Geba and Koliba/Corubal rivers and their tributaries an area of shared prosperity, regional integration and cooperation, and resilience in the face of global challenges.

## 1.3 Partners

The Forum benefited from the technical, financial, organisational and logistical support of the **United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)** and the **DSwiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**, which made a decisive contribution to the funding and organisation of the event through the partnership budget. Their support helped to strengthen the Forum's strategic and partnership framework and ensure its organisational success.

In addition, the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** provided financial support, confirming its commitment to OMVG in promoting sustainable and concerted management of natural resources in the sub-region.



# 2. RUN-OF-SHOW

The OMVG Investors' Forum took place at the King Fahd Palace Hotel in Dakar from 16 to 17 June 2025, with the main objective of mobilising funding for the Organisation's 2040 Master Plan for Integrated Development (Master Plan).

## 2.1 Opening ceremony of the forum

The **first day, Monday 16 June**, was attended by ministers of member states (The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal), donors, private investors, international financial institutions, sector experts and multilateral development institutions.

- **Mr Demba JALLOW, OMVG High Commissioner**, welcomed the participants and thanked the Government of Senegal for its support and the working conditions offered. He recalled that the Master Plan is the result of a process initiated in December 2019 following the 45th session of the Council of Ministers. He called on the Technical and Financial Partners to support the mobilisation of resources for the implementation of the Master Plan projects and expressed his gratitude to the donors, including AfDB, IsDB, WB, EIB, AFD, BOAD and KfW.
- **Mr. Andrea SEMADENI, Ambassador of the Swiss Republic**, and key partner, then praised the efforts made by the OMVG High Commission and the Member States to draw up and validate the Master Plan, which represents development potential for the riparian countries of the basins under OMVG jurisdiction. He went on to emphasise Switzerland's support for OMVG.
- Speaking on behalf of the technical and financial donors, **Mr Mouhamed CHERIF, AfDB Resident Representative in Senegal and Lead Donor of the OMVG Energy Project**, reviewed the process of mobilising funding for the project, from feasibility studies to implementation, including the APD and DAO, particularly the interconnection component, while stressing its integrating role in the sub-region. He also stressed the need to find resources to finance the Saltinho HPP, the feasibility studies for which were undertaken by the AfDB. Finally, he reiterated the availability and commitment of the TFPs to support the OMVG in implementing the projects contained in the Master Plan.
- **Mr Cheikh Tidiane DIEYE, Senegal's Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation**, welcomed the delegations and congratulated the OMVG High Commission for organising the forum. He recalled the main objective, which was to promote the Master Plan and its investment plan, and to gather financing intentions. He called for new sustainable collaborations and reaffirmed Senegal's commitment to support the OMVG programme.
- **Mr Aboubacar Camara,** Guinea's **Minister of Energy, Water Resources, and Hydrocarbons** and **current Chairman of the OMVG Council of Ministers**, pointed out that the forum represented a decisive step towards forging an alliance between States and TFPs. After stressing the need to strengthen coordination, transparency, agility and accountability, he officially opened the proceedings of the 1st OMVG Investors' Forum.

## 2.2 Presentation of the Master Plan

Following the opening ceremony, an introductory presentation on the **OMVG Master Plan presented an opportunity to review the portfolio of 179 measures, including 26 priority projects** covering the following sectors:

- **Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries**
- **Drinking water, sanitation and health**
- **Energy, Mines, Industry and Crafts**
- **Environment and Ecosystems**
- **Transport and Communication**
- **Knowledge, Management and Governance of Water Resources**



## 2.3 PANEL 1



### The role of basin organisations in the development of States and regional integration: challenges and opportunities

The panellists on this first panel were:

- **Mrs Rohey JOHN MANJANG**: Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources of the Republic of The Gambia;
- **Mr Malam SAMBU**: Minister of Natural Resources of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau;
- **Mr Aboubacar CAMARA**: Minister of Energy, Water Resources, and Hydrocarbons of the Republic of Guinea;
- **Dr Cheikh Tidiane DIEYE**: Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation of the Republic of Senegal;
- **Mr Demba JALLOW**: OMVG High Commissioner.

**Professor Serigne FAYE**, moderated the panel. Professor of hydrogeology and geology in the Geology Department of the Faculty of Science and Technology at Cheikh Anta Diop University, he was also director of the doctoral school on water quality and use (EDEQUE).

This panel, which took place in plenary session, identified the challenges and formulated conclusions and recommendations for political, economic and technical convergence in the sub-region.

**The issues and challenges** included:

- Administrative delays in some Member States, which lengthen the time it takes to sign protocols;
- Inequalities between Member States in terms of funding;
- Restrictions on resource mobilisation;
- Lack of human resources.

**Key findings and recommendations**:

- Harmonisation of the legal framework of member states with that of the OMVG to facilitate access to funding;
- Secure the legal framework to mitigate risks;
- Establish solid governance to guarantee financing;
- Sharing best practice between OMVS and OMVG;
- Building OMVG's capacity to gain the confidence of TFPs.

## 2.4 PANEL 2

### Access to Financing and Guarantee Mechanisms: support from States and TFPs, and use of income from common structures

This panel was moderated by:

- **Mr Alain OUEDRAGO**: Regional Integration Programme Manager at the World Bank;
- **Mrs Laura MUNOZ PEREZ**: UNCDF Regional Technical Manager for West Africa;
- **Mr Adama MOUSSA**: Head of West Africa Power Systems Operations Division, AfDB;
- Moderator: **Mr Andrea SEMADENI**, Swiss Ambassador to Dakar.

The panel's key findings were as follows:

- Under current conditions, the OMVG is not in a position to raise funds directly from the majority of traditional partners such as the AfDB;
- The main donors (AfDB, WB) strongly recommend the development of projects and programmes on a regional scale and also the implementation of suitable funding mechanisms;
- The OMVG, through its member states, is eligible for the traditional window to finance its regional projects, such as the Energy project;
- OMVG can also access the WB's new window on adaptation to climate change and other climate-oriented financing mechanisms (carbon credits, green funds, blue funds, etc.);
- UNCDF's willingness to support member states and basin organisations such as the OMVG in carrying out their development projects in order to improve the living conditions of riverside populations.



## 2.5 Presentation of the six priority projects of the OMVG Master Plan

The plenary session of the **deal room** gave a detailed presentation of six priority projects that reflect OMVG's vision of promoting and strengthening regional integration, following the completion of the interconnection line and the start-up of the Sambangalou dam:

**1. The Campossa hydro-agricultural scheme is designed to increase food security and improve local incomes through irrigation and agricultural development.**



| | |
|---|---|
| Volume retained | 94 million $m^3$ |
| Hydro-agricultural development | 1000 ha of plain |
| Location | 14°27'51'' W -12°07'47'' N |
| River | Campossa (Guinea-Bissau) |
| Estimated cost | USD 89 million |

**2. The Digan hydroelectric scheme is designed to boost renewable energy production and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Planned upstream of Sambangalou, it will help to enhance the site.**



| | |
|---|---|
| Capacity | 93 MW |
| Location | 11°50 W - 11°51'40'' N |
| River | Gambia (Guinea) |
| Estimated cost | USD 400 million |

**3. The Kourawel hydropower scheme also aims to increase the supply of clean, reliable energy, thereby supporting the economic development of member countries.**



| | |
|---|---|
| Capacity | 135 MW |
| Location | 12° 26' W - 11°42' N |
| River | Komba (Guinea) |
| Estimated cost | USD 432 million |

**4. The Fello Sounga hydroelectric scheme aims to meet the growing demand for electricity and agricultural production, while integrating environmental protection. This dam is planned upstream of Saltinho, which it will help to improve.**



| | |
|---|---|
| **Capacity** | 82 MW |
| **Location** | 11°32 N - 13° 16′ W |
| **River** | Tominé (Guinea) |
| **Estimated cost** | USD 450 million |

**5. The Saltinho hydroelectric scheme is part of a strategy to diversify energy sources and develop modern infrastructure to serve rural and urban populations.**



| | |
|---|---|
| **Capacity** | 21,2 MW (run-of-river) |
| **Location** | 14°46 N - 11° 36′ W |
| **River** | Corubal (Guinea-Bissau) |
| **Estimated cost** | 145 million euros |

**6. The Sambangalou Hydropower Project, an emblematic OMVG project, combines hydropower production, irrigation and flood control, environmental protection and navigability, providing a major lever for socio-economic development and climate resilience in the OMVG area.**



| | |
|---|---|
| **Capacity** | 128 MW |
| **Location** | 14°05 N - 12° 24′ W |
| **River** | Gambia (Senegal) |
| **Estimated cost** | 159 million euros |

By presenting these six integrated and complementary projects, the forum demonstrated OMVG's commitment to making its natural resources a catalyst for regional integration, energy and food security, while offering investors and partners a strategic platform for commitment to sustainable development in West Africa.

## 2.6 Deal-room and speed dating

In the afternoon of the first day, following the plenary session (deal room), a speed dating session was organised around six (6) tables for sectoral presentations.

These exchanges enabled OMVG to present the Master Plan's priority initiatives and to talk directly with investors about the six sectors of the twenty-six priority projects up to 2030.

Throughout the day, in-depth discussions were held on the financing required to implement the projects, targeting an overall portfolio estimated at **USD 2,974.61 million**.

## 2.7 Testimonies

**The second day, Tuesday 17 June**, was devoted to a panel discussion on the achievements of the OMVG. These testimonies provided a powerful opportunity to retrace the historical and institutional development of this emblematic sub-regional organisation.

This session was led by personalities who have had a deep impact on the history of OMVG, including **Mr El Hadji Lansana FOFANA**, former High Commissioner, **Mr Ababacar NDAO**, former Secretary General, and **Mr Abdoulaye SENE**, former Executive Secretary of the 9th World Water Forum in Dakar. The testimonies highlighted the inclusive vision of the founding fathers, whose ambition was to build exemplary cooperation between Member States around the concerted management of shared resources. This also applies to OMVS, which was created in 1972 and set the benchmark for the design of OMVG.



The presentations retraced the history of OMVG, in particular the period 1978-1990, when it was set up at a slow pace, with projects struggling to come to fruition in the face of divergent national ambitions and an unfavourable economic climate.

The period 1991-1997 saw a genuine institutional reorganisation and strategic repositioning, with the completion of the first baseline studies and the consolidation of an integrated regional vision. Between 1997 and 2006, OMVG went through a phase of maturing flagship projects, in particular the launch of an ambitious energy project aligned with the guidelines of the West African Power Pool (WAPP).

Finally, the period 2016-2025 symbolises an era of concretisation, with the active support of the Technical and Financial Partners and the Member States. It is marked in particular by the completion of the OMVG Energy Project, including the construction of 1,677 km of interconnected electricity transmission lines and the launch of the strategic Sambangalou Hydropower Project, on the river Gambia, with an installed capacity of 128 MW in Senegal. This project was launched in a difficult global context, marked by the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, both of which had an impact on international trade. OMVG was able to demonstrate its resilience in managing the interconnection project, with the support of partners, companies and national administrations.

The panel also highlighted the role of OMVG, alongside OMVS, as international models of successful cooperation in West Africa and catalysts for peace and development. The two basin organisations have pooled their energies to develop shared infrastructure for inclusive and sustainable development, thereby helping to strengthen peace, regional integration and energy security in their respective communities.



The panellists put forward a set of strategic recommendations aimed at strengthening the governance, effectiveness and impact of the projects included in the Master Plan. As a priority, they stressed the need to develop an effective tool for monitoring and implementing the Master Plan, in the form of a dashboard with relevant indicators. This tool will make it possible to accurately measure the progress of projects, quickly identify any constraints encountered and propose appropriate solutions to optimise results.

The discussions also highlighted the importance of capitalising on the expertise and experience of resource persons in the High Commission and OMVG Member States, with a view to strengthening institutional memory and optimising strategic planning.

Finally, the panellists recommended promoting greater involvement of local private companies in development projects, thereby helping to boost national economies and ensure greater regional ownership of initiatives. These recommendations provide a clear Roadmap for strengthening institutional efficiency, improving the climate of trust with partners and stimulating sustainable economic development in the OMVG area.

## 2.8 Closing ceremony of the forum

The closing ceremony of the forum was marked by speeches by the line Ministers of The Gambia and Senegal, the OMVG High Commissioner and Minister **Abdoulie JOBE**, who paid a vibrant tribute to the founding fathers and praised the action of the Heads of State who are working tirelessly to consolidate regional integration.

They noted the decisive contribution of the partners who have, in particular, made possible the construction of the interconnection line, which has brought about major changes for the populations of the Member States. This infrastructure offers real advantages and opportunities for the States, which are united by history, geography, and solid social and cultural ties. Furthermore, in connection with the WAPP, the interconnection line opens up the OMVG area to the regional electricity market.

They reiterated the strategic importance of the forum in mobilising the funding needed to implement the Master Plan for Integrated Development (Master Plan) 2040. Emphasising the role of public and private players, the speakers encouraged the transformation of financing intentions into concrete, sustainable projects. They asked project leaders to prepare clear applications that met Donor standards, in order to optimise the mobilisation of resources.

The authorities present reaffirmed their confidence in the success of the projects and the achievement of the objectives set by the Master Plan, which provides a tailored response to the priorities of the Member States by building on major achievements such as the interconnection line.

With a view to making the forum and the ensuing exchanges a lever for achieving the common ambitions of the Member States, the authorities encouraged OMVG to make the most of its assets and existing opportunities, while redoubling its efforts to mobilise the necessary financial resources.

The Senegalese authorities were much appreciated, in particular the Head of State, **His Excellency Bassirou Diomaye FAYE**, and the Prime Minister, **Mr Ousmane SONKO**, for their support, through the line Ministers and other ministerial departments, in the preparation and organisation of the Forum.

Minister Abdoulie JOBE closed his speech by thanking the participants, who had responded in their numbers to OMVG's call and contributed to the forum's success.

# 3. PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The Forum brought together a diverse and representative group of key players in regional development and sustainable investment. The main participants were:

**Institutional and political representatives**

- Ministers and senior officials of the OMVG Member States (Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal);
- Members of the OMVG and OMVS High Commissions;
- Government authorities responsible for water, energy, the environment, natural resources, regional integration and investment.

**Technical and Financial Partners (TFP)**

- Multilateral development banks (African Development Bank, World Bank, Islamic Development Bank, EIB, KfW).
- International cooperation and solidarity agencies (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Adour Garonne Water Agency).
- Specialised international institutions: United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

**Private investors and companies**

- Engineering and construction companies;
- Operators in the energy, agricultural, mining and industrial sectors;
- Representatives of the local and international private sector interested in the Master Plan's structuring projects.

**Experts, researchers and resource persons**

- Academics and specialists in Water Resources, Agriculture, Energy and Climate;
- Consultants, experts and resource persons involved in the preparation and implementation of projects in various fields.

**Civil society and local stakeholders**

- Non-governmental organisations, community organisations, associations involved in natural resource management and local development;
- Representatives of civil society defending the interests of local communities.










# 4. SUMMARY OF PARTNERS' INTENTIONS AND COMMITMENTS

Several key projects attracted considerable interest from the donors and financial and institutional partners present, resulting in significant commitments to their implementation.

## 4.1 Adour-Garonne Water Agency

The Adour Garonne Water Agency expressed its strong intention to collaborate with OMVG. It has emphasised its willingness to support the Organisation both technically and financially in two priority areas:

- The first concerns governance, with a particular focus on consolidating knowledge, strategic planning and the development of decision-making tools, which are essential for improving the integrated management of Water Resources.
- The second area concerns access to drinking water and sanitation, in direct liaison with local authorities, in order to strengthen the resilience of communities and promote solutions tailored to their realities. The Agency has made it clear that the key challenge is to focus investment on local areas, particularly in The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, by placing the needs of local populations at the heart of its priorities. In addition, AEAG has affirmed its openness to the involvement of the private sector, by remaining attentive to the needs expressed in the various thematic areas and relying on local skills to ensure the sustainability of the actions envisaged.



## 4.2 Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

The IsDB has expressed a clear and structured intention to collaborate with the organisation, reflecting its desire to support strategic projects that meet the priority needs of member states. It also pointed out that, of the portfolio presented, only the Saltinho and Sambangalou Hydropower Projects and the Campossa hydro-agricultural project were sufficiently mature to be considered bankable.

However, the IsDB has shown a keen interest in supporting initiatives with high added value in the area of sustainable management of Water Resources and access to basic services. It has announced its intention to contribute €100 million to co-finance the construction of the Saltinho hydroelectric scheme, in partnership with the African Development Bank, and to support a series of strategic studies. These include the creation of a regional water and environment observatory platform, the installation of a network of hydrometric equipment to improve knowledge and monitoring of water resources, and the financing of drinking water supply programmes for rural communities in the sub-region. The IsDB is also committed to providing assistance to the OMVG, in particular through its financing instruments related to the private sector, with a view to structuring and maturing its projects.

With this in mind, the IsDB has recommended that OMVG formalise its requests by sending official requests accompanied by project documents for each of these components, ensuring a phased structuring, an integrated dimension and a co-financing approach.

This intention reflects not only IsDB's commitment to supporting the practical implementation of OMVG Master Plan for Integrated Development, but also its alignment with regional priorities combining energy production, water security and inclusive social development.

## 4.3 African Development Bank (AfDB)

The Bank proudly recalled its historic role in supporting OMVG, highlighting in particular the financing of the feasibility studies for the Energy project in 2005, which were an essential milestone in the transition to the construction phase of the OMVG interconnection network.

It also highlighted its decisive support for regional integration through the financing of the River Bridge, an emblematic structure due to be inaugurated in 2019.

Building on these achievements, the AfDB outlined its future commitments, recalling that it had financed pre-feasibility studies for the Saltinho HPP dam and conducted a project identification and preparation mission in September 2024, paving the way for the construction phase. AfDB welcomed IsDB's interest in co-financing the project and said it had earmarked resources to support the construction of the Digan and Kourawel HPPs. She also urged OMVG to expedite the completion of the technical studies in order to facilitate the mobilisation of funding.

The AfDB stressed that, through the African Water Facility (AWF), it has financed the Campossa hydro-agricultural development study finalised in 2014, and renewed its commitment to mobilise the resources required to update it and start work. Reaffirming its ongoing commitment to support OMVG in the implementation of its development projects, the AfDB stressed the need to rapidly complete the studies for the Digan and Kourawel hydropower schemes in order to create favourable conditions for the mobilisation of financial resources. The urgent finalisation of the preparatory technical studies is justified by the completion of the 16thcycle of the African Development Fund (ADF) and the preparation of the 17thcycle in 2026, requiring the availability of precise technical and financial data on the planned projects.

Lastly, the AfDB has indicated its willingness to support the private sector, both through direct financing and the granting of guarantees, in order to strengthen its participation in the implementation of OMVG projects.

## 4.4 World Bank (WB)

The WB reaffirmed its commitment to supporting OMVG in the implementation of its strategic projects. In a strong statement, it expressed its willingness to share the Master Plan for Integrated Development (Master Plan) internally with its various departments responsible for Energy, Water, Sanitation and the Environment, in order to strengthen the coordination and alignment of technical and financial support.

On the energy front, the WB expressed particular interest in the Soma-Tambacounda and Brikama-Kaolack Sud interconnection lines, subject to Senegal's official confirmation of its commitment to the project, and in the construction of the Saltinho HPP.

It recommended that OMVG provide all relevant information on certain initiatives in order to assess the financing and support arrangements. The WB also expressed an interest in the Digan, Kourawel (co-financed with the AfDB) and Fello Sounga HPPs in conjunction with its private sector arm, the IFC. The WB stressed the need to communicate regularly on the progress of these projects.

Finally, it recalled the existence of a grant window to support technical assistance needs, in particular for institutional capacity building and project preparation, thus confirming its willingness to support the OMVG both financially and technically.

These commitments reflect the effective commitment of donors and technical and financial partners to OMVG's priority projects, paving the way for increased funding and accelerated implementation of the initiatives arising from the forum.

# 5. RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The OMVG Investors' Forum concluded with a number of strategic recommendations aimed at optimising project preparation, accelerating implementation and giving concrete expression to the financing intentions expressed.

- **Structuring immature projects**

The forum recommended systematically identifying the projects presented that have not yet reached a sufficient level of maturity to attract funding.

For each of these projects, **a detailed maturation plan should be put in place**, including technical and financial feasibility studies, risk analysis and assessment of institutional, environmental and social aspects.

Projects should be prioritised according to their potential attractiveness to investors and their socio-economic impact on the region.

A maturation timetable with precise milestones will be defined to ensure optimum preparation of applications before they are submitted to investors.

- **Technical monitoring by a post-forum steering committee**

It is recommended that a **post-forum monitoring unit** be set up within the OMVG to monitor project studies and implementation and to communicate with partners and investors about funding intentions.

This unit will be responsible for coordinating regular reporting, monitoring maturation milestones, updating project files and resolving identified bottlenecks.

Regular meetings with project sponsors and investors will help to maintain transparency, build confidence and guarantee the continuity of the actions undertaken.

This structure will propose ways of setting up a framework for formal and regular dialogue with the technical and financial partners.

- **Preparation and development of bankable projects**

To improve and increase funding opportunities and effectively prepare for project development, it is recommended that a **permanent Unit/Cell** be set up **to steer and coordinate** the preparation, development and monitoring and evaluation of the Master Plan.

To strengthen funding opportunities and optimise project preparation, the forum recommended setting up a **permanent Unit/Cell** dedicated to steering, coordinating and monitoring and evaluation of the Master Plan.

The structure should draw on internal resources and have tools and procedures for steering, coordinating and monitoring and evaluation. It will act as an interface with the technical and financial partners, investors and private operators, throughout the process of maturing, seeking, mobilising and structuring funding, and implementing and evaluating projects.

Each application must include a market study, business plan, detailed financial model, environmental and social assessment, risk management plan and the necessary guarantees and financing mechanisms.

Particular attention should be paid to ensuring that the applications comply with the standards of traditional donors such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Agence Française de Développement, the International Finance Corporation and the European Investment Bank.






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