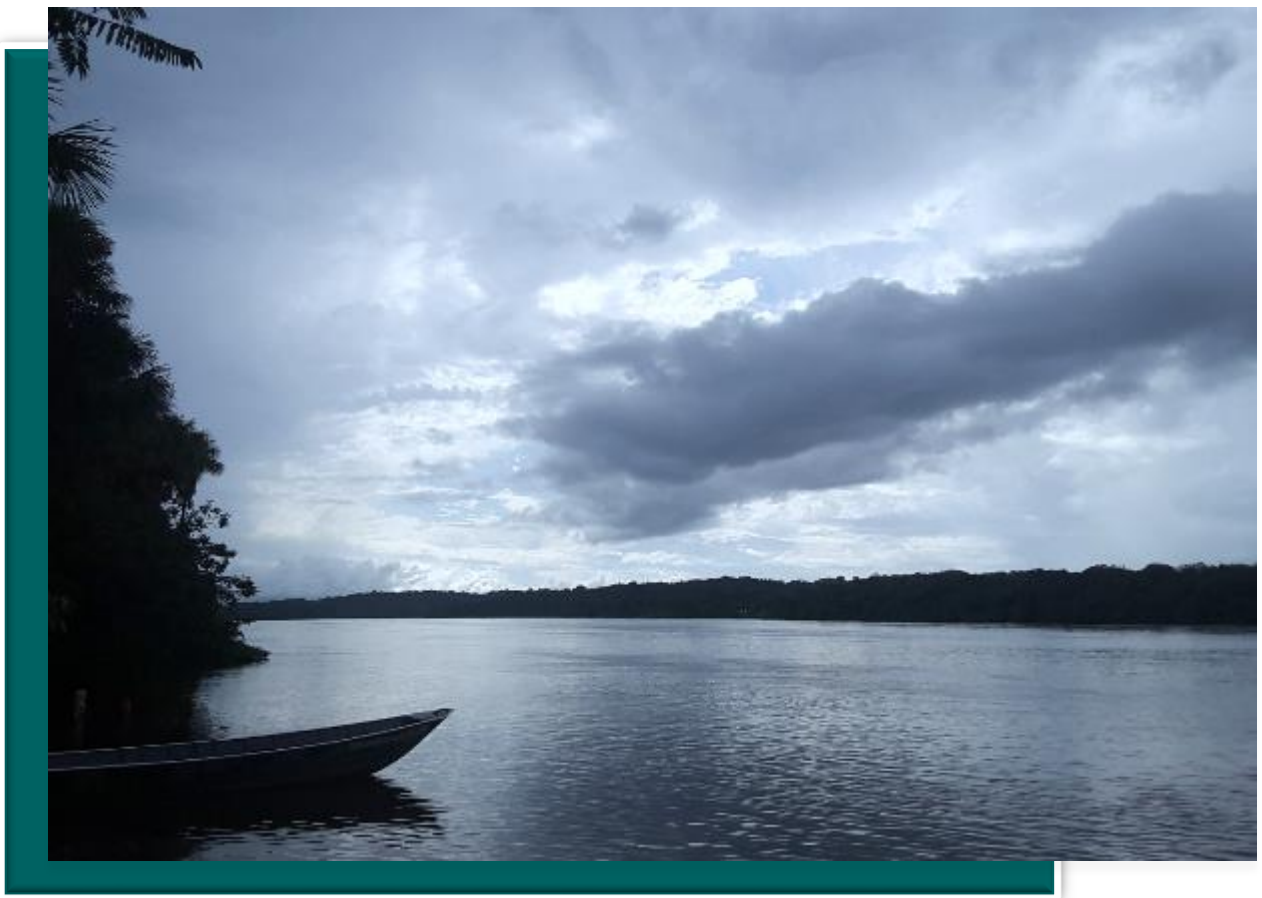




REPORT

Steering Committee n°2



8 September 2020 from 10:00 to 11:30 am
Visio-conferencing via Zoom



Context

The second Steering Committee of the BIO-PLATEAUX project met on 8 September 2020 from 10:00 to 11:30 am. The animation has been carried out by Eric TARDIEU, Director General of the International Office for Water and the moderation by Franck CHOW-TOUN, Head of the Water Planning and Forecasting Unit at the French Guiana Water Office.

Objectives of the Steering Committee:

- Follow-up and Monitor the implementation of the Cayenne Declaration signed on November 26th 2019 by the partners in the presence of the competent ministerial and territorial authorities,
- Validate the roadmap of the second component of the BIO-PLATEAUX project on the basis of the activities in progress since the Conference,
- Coordinate the objectives and priority themes of the BIO-PLATEAUX web platform under development,
- Facilitate mutual knowledge and rapprochement between decision-making actors of French Guiana, Suriname and Brazil,
- Prepare the next regional and international events 2020-2021.

Agenda :

Heure	Thèmes
10h00	Opening of the Steering Committee and introductory remarks by the Surinamese, French and Brazilian authorities
10h10	Reminder of the objectives and components of the project, review of the Conference and validation of its capitalization instruments
10h20	Presentation of animation activities (monthly Technical Committee, Transboundary Working Groups and thematic work) carried out since the Conference and presentation of the results
10h35	Priority themes of the BIO-PLATEAUX project
10h40	Approval of the website tree structure and the first products of the project
10h50	Validation of the short-term roadmap proposed by the Transboundary Technical Groups
11h05	Preparation of the next events within the framework of the project
11h15	Long-term strategy for the BIO-PLATEAUX Observatory
11h30	Closing

Key interventions

Mrs. Hélène SIRDER, 1st Vice-President of the CTG, made the opening of this second SC and recalled the context and objectives of the International Conference BIO-PLATEAUX, held in November 2019. This event has initiated a positive dynamic of regional cooperation with Suriname and the Amapá State on the theme of water resource with the signing of the Cayenne Statement. The BIO-PLATEAUX project was able to continue this logic during the first half of 2020 by concretizing the knowledge and data sharing between the three territories for the management of water and biodiversity. Mrs. SIRDER also highlighted the importance of the long-term strategy for the implementation of the project and the preparation of Transboundary Observatory foundations on the Guianas Shield. She identified some challenges: ownership by the populations and local authorities as well as good dissemination of results in multilateral events.

The Minister of Public Works of Suriname, Riad NURMOHAMED highlighted the importance of the decisions that need to be taken for improving monitoring and observation of the Transboundary Rivers as well as the availability of data. In the continuity of the meeting between the Surinamese and French authorities on 4 September 2020, Mr. Minister expressed the importance of the BIO-PLATEAUX project for the Surinamese government.

Mrs. Tânia DO SOCORRO BARROSO MIRANDA SOUSA, Director-Presidente of the Amapá Agency also recalled, on behalf of the Governor of the Amapá State, the support given to the project and the defense of the environment in general. She also recalled the commitment of all *Amapaense* technical teams to the success of BIO-PLATEAUX, around the focal point in the territory: the Amapá Agency. The objective is to carry out concrete activities of cooperation in this direction, especially on the Oyapock basin.

Mr. Jean-Bernard NILAM, Ambassador Delegate for the West Indies-French Guiana Regional Cooperation, expressed the willingness of the French government to be involved in the sharing knowledge on the Maroni and Oyapock rivers in order to see concrete solutions that improve the daily life of local populations. In the continuity of the intervention of the Ministry of Overseas (MoM) during the BIO-PLATEAUX Conference, he also highlighted that the MoM will be attentive to the progress of the project, in coordination with the diplomatic strategy of France supported by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Antoine JOLY, Ambassador of France to Suriname, detailed the positive context of cooperation on the Maroni with recent diplomatic advances, including the signing on 4 September 2020 of a joint Statement in Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni between the French and Surinamese governments. Among the remarkable advances provided in this Statement, the issue of the environment appears to be prominent. The Ambassador also highlighted the prospect of a historic border treaty signing before the end of 2020, which could be accompanied by a common vision on the shared governance of the river. BIO-PLATEAUX could provide concrete examples in terms of cooperation.

Mrs. Anne SUARD, Diplomatic Adviser at the “Prefecture” of French Guiana, was in charge of representing Mr. Le Préfet during the SC. She indicated that the services of the French State and French Guiana are mobilized within the framework of the BIO-PLATEAUX project on the technical aspects, and that the “Prefecture” is available to facilitate the missions of the project. For France, the quality of the waters of the Maroni and Oyapock rivers is a constant concern, as evidenced the signing of the Statement on the Maroni, which refers to the fight against illegal gold mining.

Report of the Steering Committee

THE OBJECTIVES, PARTNERS AND COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

Alain BERNARD, Director of the BIO-PLATEAUX project at IOWater, cited the project's partners and objectives for sharing information on water resources and aquatic biodiversity. The project has two components:

- The **International Conference** on water and biodiversity associated to aquatic environments, held on 26 November 2019 in Cayenne in the presence of high-level ministerial and territorial authorities from Suriname, Brazil and French Guiana. At the end of this international event, a Cayenne Statement was signed by the partners. It acknowledges the common ambition of the three countries on the two basins. The entire program presentations and executive summary of this event have been posted on the Conference website: <http://www.conference-bioplataeux-2019.oieau.fr/en>
- The preparatory works for the creation of a **Transboundary Observatory** in 2020, including the initiation of an animation network and the participatory development of a web platform promoting the sharing of data, information and experiences on water and aquatic biodiversity.

THE ANIMATION NETWORK

Rémi BOYER, coordinator of the BIO-PLATEAUX project, presented the animation activities carried out following the BIO-PLATEAUX Conference, which facilitated remote exchanges to develop the different working area through three distinct levels:

- **Steering Committee (SC)** which brings together the authorities of the three territories to define the main orientations of the project, determine the strategy and validate the results,
- **Technical Committee (COTEC)** for each basins with participation of focal point/signatories of the Cayenne Statement. In order to coordinate the work and take into account the expectations of the three territories, these meetings ensure a coordinated development of the products. The focal points relay the needs of the territories and transmit the contents to their technical partners,
- **Transboundary Working Groups (WG)**, which the first was carried out as a direct result of the Conference and the second in July 2020. These events allow a notion of appropriation around priority themes but also an awareness of the expectations of the participatory actors.

These WGs are divided into **thematic sub-groups** that meet regularly on the participants. In particular hydrology, which has been the subject of numerous meetings between stakeholders in the two basins.

Once these foundations have been clearly established, the project must now develop a strategy to strengthen ties with local communities and populations. Indeed, the vocation of the Observatory is to go beyond the technical sphere to meet the needs of local actors. The health context due to the COVID-19 crisis has postponed activities in this area until the first half of 2021. However, these activities are nonetheless essential.

The SC has validated the animation model presented.

THE PRIORITY ISSUES

Based on the work of the first WGs and the first COTECs, a list of themes was prioritized and refined by all WG and COTEC partners:

- Observation of aquatic environments (environmental monitoring),
- The hydro-meteorological and hydraulic network in relation to water resources,
- Coastal zone management (including erosion/sedimentation processes linked with river basins)
- Pollutions and pressure (contamination of water and aquatic environments: mercury, waste),
- Integrated water resources management modalities (including basin committees),
- Water and biodiversity resources plan,
- Transversal tools (including remote sensing and spatial tools),
- Monitoring of fishery resources and aquatic biodiversity.

Mr. Minister Riad NURMOHAMED recalled the importance of detailing each of the themes in order to provide an overall and precise vision to local actors. Following a question raised by the audience, the BIO-PLATEAUX team underlined that the topic “modalities for integrated management” does not provide the creation of basin committees in a first stage, but rather the sharing of existing models for participatory consultation on water resources in the three territories.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BIO-PLATEAUX PLATFORM

The methodology in place for the development of the platform took into account the expectations and needs of the technical partners. A joint participatory approach was used with COTECs and WGs for the formulation of the objectives associated with the platform and each of its modules, the drafting of specifications or the choice of the graphic charter.

The SC was the opportunity to demonstrate the operation of the online platform, in order to illustrate these advances for each of the modules:

- “Presentation of the BIO-PLATEAUX project” module, which details the objectives, partners and sources of funding of the project;
- “Documentation” module, which brings together studies and documents produced by public actors, university, research organizations, etc.. A specific tab is provided for awareness tools;
- “Data and information” module, which lists and classifies (in the form of a metadata catalog) the data and information that are produced on the water resources and biodiversity of the two basins. Valuation tools are also available to serve as decision support tools (tables of indicators, interactive mapping),
- “Experience sharing” module, which highlights initiatives and projects that promote good practices for possible replication and joint work. It also contains a thematic directory tool to identify stakeholders in each territory.
- “Events” module, which aims at sharing events, capacity building sessions, webinars and dissemination tools organized in the project.

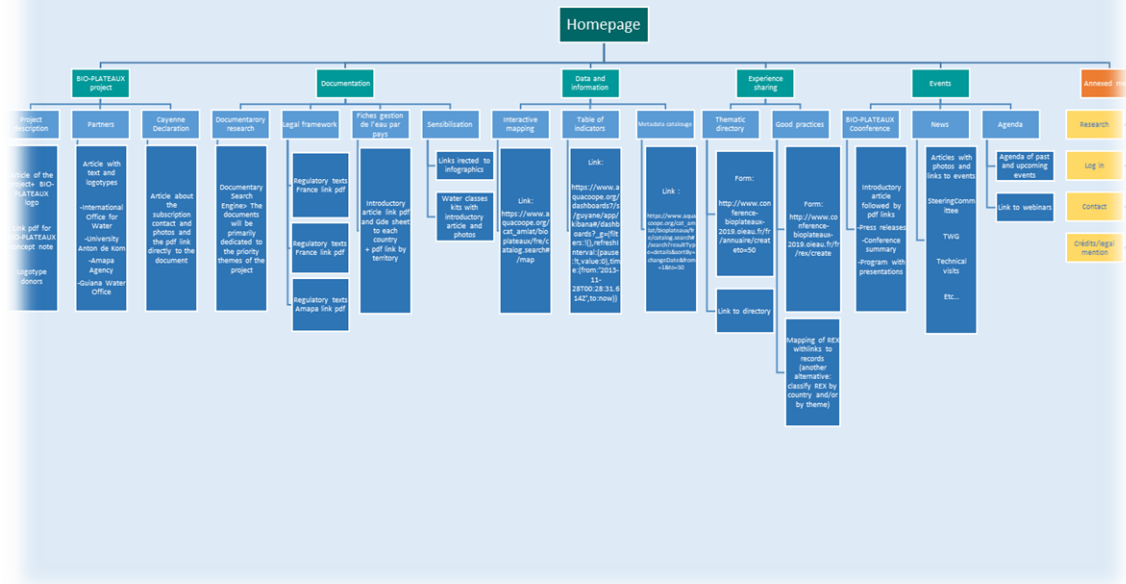


Figure 1 Tree structure of the BIO-PLATEAUX Platform



Figure 2 Screenshot of the BIO-PLATEAUX Platform

The SC participants validated the participative approach, the tree structure, the graphic charter and the developments of the platform.

After the presentation of the platform, the project team (in particular Célia BIANCAT and Marta BOYKO) presented specific products responding to a need formulated by the partners. Such as the automatic daily hydrological bulletins on the two basins, the feedback/good practices sheets or the “Data and Information” module.

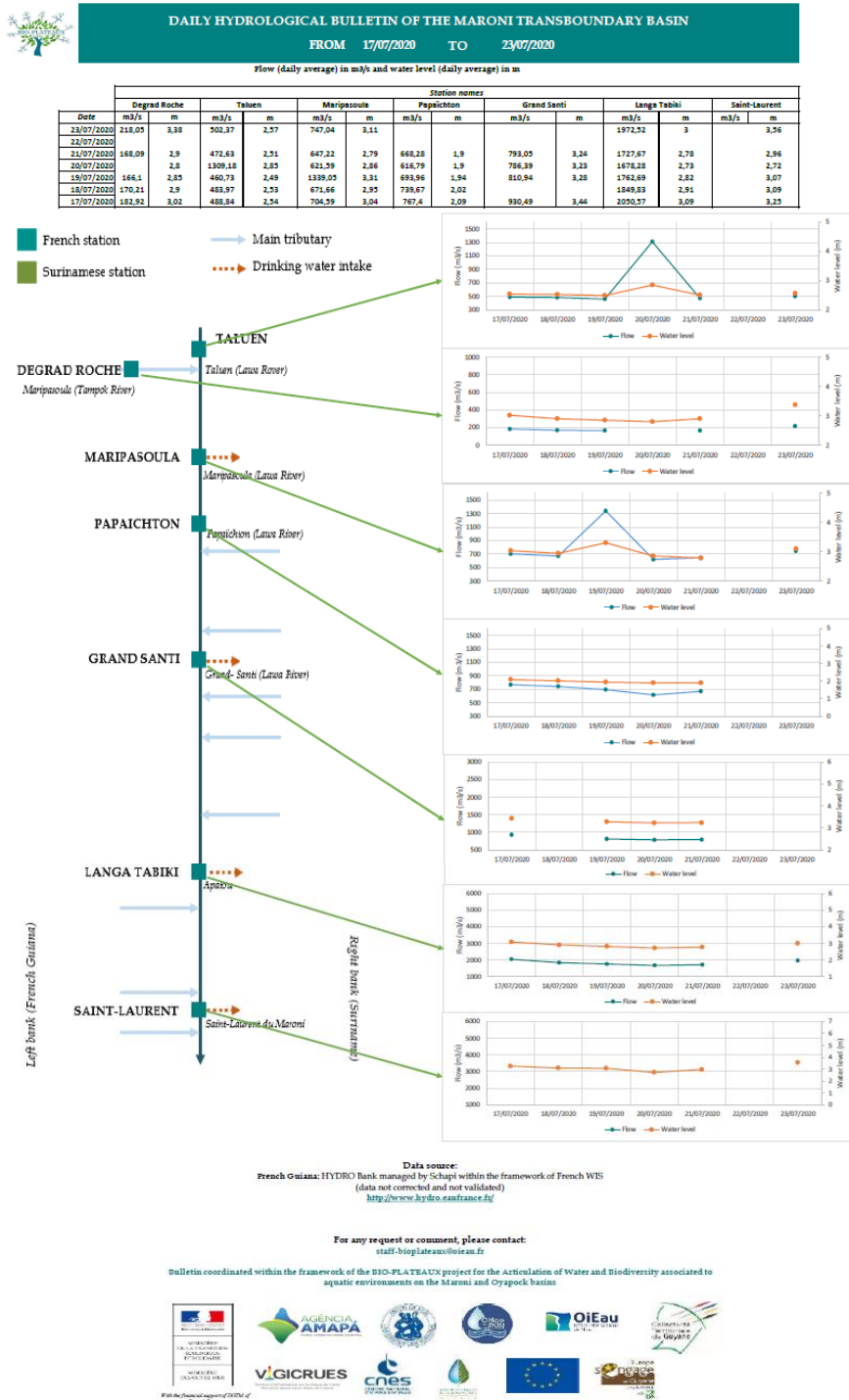


Figure 3 Example product: daily hydrological bulletin on the Maroni River

The process of developing these product, prepared in addition to the activities initially planned (as they were not included in the PCIA Convention), attracted the support of the SC.

VALIDATION OF THE ROADMAP PROPOSED BY THE TRANSBOUNDARY WORKING GROUPS

At the end of the second Transboundary Working Groups on 20, 21 and 22 July 2020, the partners of Suriname, French Guiana and Brazil agreed on actions around four short-term technical axes:

- **Hydrometeorological network,**
- **Environmental and water contamination monitoring,**
- **Water resource management tools,**
- **Hydrogeology and drinking water supply.**

Exchanges have already been initiated on these different issues, with a rapprochement and interesting prospects for the joint development of the hydrometeorological network. On all these subjects, the organization of joint campaigns, missions and meetings could be useful. The focal points of AdeKUS, the Amapa Agency and the OEG affirmed their concern about the feasibility of joint field missions on the Oyapock and Maroni Rivers, due to the health crisis. The Prefecture of French Guiana reiterated its willingness to facilitate these missions when they are scheduled. Initially scheduled for late September and early November, two missions on the Oyapock River for the joint monitoring system were postponed due to the COVID-19 health-context.

INVENTORY OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AND ACTIVITIES TO BE DEVELOPED

The BIO-PLATEAUX team presented the progress of the different products expected in the INTERREG PCIA Convention.

Then, the team presented the two working areas to be developed until the end of the first phase of the project (June 2021) were evoked:

- **Knowledge:** the development of the water data master plan, which will identify the needs and propose concrete solutions in terms of production (it will detail a joint monitoring strategy) as well as sharing and valorization of the data and information produced. Pilot actions will be carried out (including the densification of the hydrological measurement network) in order to demonstrate the feasibility of this joint approach.
- **Communication with territorial actors and populations,** as much as possible in view of the health context. From the point of view of awareness raising, the partners presented a two-scale strategy (participatory science for middle/high schools audience; and water classes for primary/middle schools, with an educational content based on the reality of the basins). The organization of a closing event was evoked.

The authorities present highlighted the importance of disseminating the results obtained in the framework of the project, including through international events.

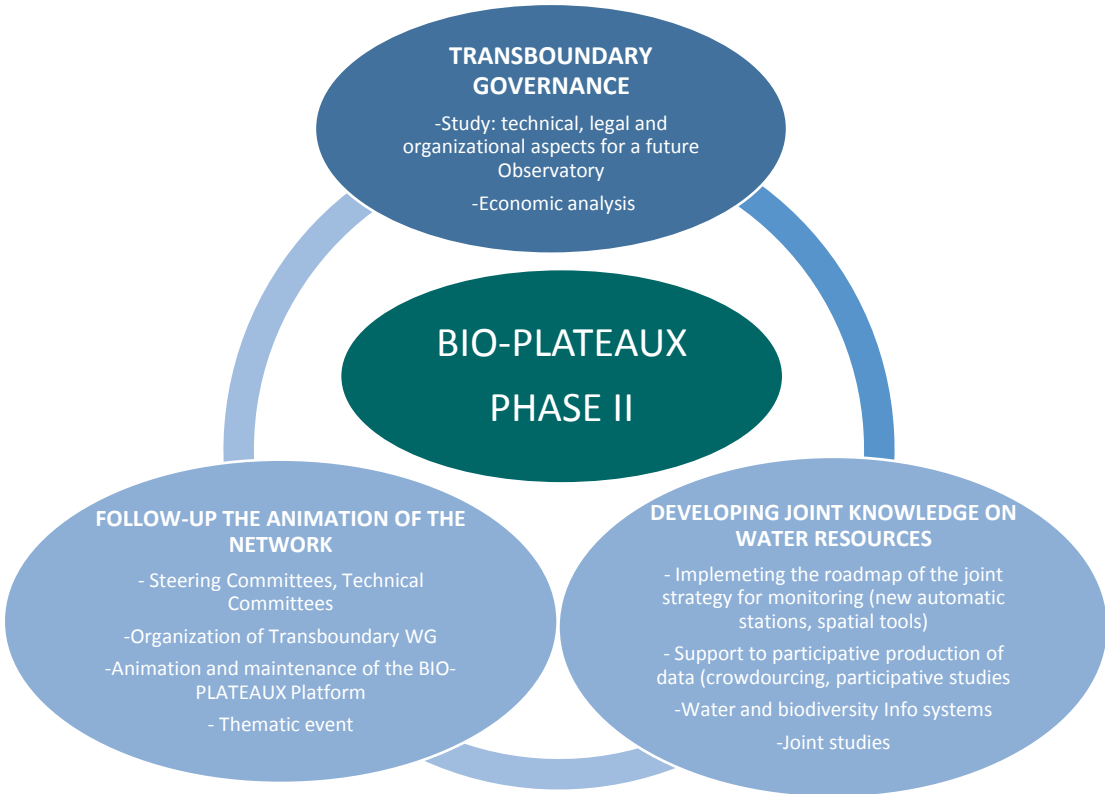
Expected products in Component 1 (2018, 2019)		
Product	State	Indicator/comments
<i>International Conference</i>	Finished	The event was held on 26, 27 and 28 November 2019 (140 participants and high level representatives, media coverage of the three territories)
<i>Draft for Statement preparation</i>	Finished and Signed	Cayenne Statement
<i>Documents disseminating of the Conference results</i>	Finished	All presentations available online Synthetic report produced, sent to all participants A second consolidation document is being finalized (more technical as a diagnostic)

Expected products in Component 2 (2020, 2021)		
Product	State	Indicator/comments
<i>2 Transboundary Working Groups</i>	Finished	1 st WG after the Conference + Calendar agreed
<i>Semi-annual meeting, including at least one in each country for the two technical groups (Suriname/French Guiana for Maroni river and French Guiana/Brazil for Oyapock River)</i>	In progress	Deferral from June to July 2020 for WG n°2. It will be organized remotely due to COVID-19
<i>Data sharing and enhancement platform</i>	Finished, permanent reinforcement	https://www.aquacoope.org/guyane/fi/ Data and information module available. This module should be integrated in the future BIO-PLATEAUX platform under development.
<i>Online metadata catalog with description of main data sources</i>	Finished, permanent reinforcement	https://www.aquacoope.org/cat_amlat/bioplataux/fre/catalog.search#/search?resultType=details&sortBy=changeDate&from=1&to=50 Data and information module available. This module should be integrated in the future BIO-PLATEAUX platform under development.
<i>“Master Plan of data on water and biodiversity linked to aquatic environments” presenting a state of play in the basins, including a description of the priority material needs (monitoring, measurement, analysis), with identification of decision-support tools, to be implemented as a priority in a later phase</i>	In progress	At the request of OEG, one of the chapters of this document will be entitled “Joint monitoring strategy”. It will include the necessary needs in terms of strengthening the water data production with a transboundary view. Included in the WG agenda of July 2020, by theme (in particular hydrology, contamination, quality)
<i>Sets of cards and indicators usable for the characterization of transboundary basins</i>	Finished, permanent reinforcement	https://www.aquacoope.org/guyane/fi/ A geographic viewfinder and tables of indicators are available. This module must be integrated into the future BIO-PLATEAUX platform in development
<i>Usable information supports within the framework of environmental education actions</i>	To come soon	Scheduled for the end of the second half of 2020
<i>5 test water classes</i>	To come soon	Scheduled for the first half of 2021
<i>Application report containing recommendations for future replication</i>	To come soon	Scheduled for the first half of 2021

Figure 4 Project results monitoring table

THE PERSPECTIVES

In order to perpetuate the approach initiated by the project, and while the first phase of the BIO-PLATEAUX project will come to its end in June 2021; the partners expect a second phase. A preliminary conceptualization of the project was presented to the participants as a basis for work. It is based on the three following axes:



Mrs. Hélène SIRDER, 1st Vice-President of the CTG and the Ambassador Delegate for West Indies-French Guiana Regional Cooperation, Jean-Bernard NILAM, supported the initiative by recalling the importance of a shared governance, the work with the local populations and the opportunity to share the different work in future international events.

Mr Ambassador of France in Suriname, Antoine JOLY also highlighted the importance of this governance in order to place the reflections within the framework of multilateral relations. In addition, the French and Surinamese governments are jointly working on how to accompany the expected delimitation of the Maroni border with a joint Statement in favor of a shared governance and new perspectives in a global management of the River issues (water resource management, river transport, economic activities, and border control). The BIO-PLATEAUX project can serve as a concrete example to support the expected achievements in this direction.

CONCLUSIONS

During this Steering Committee, the various participants validated the governance of the project, the tools developed and the strategy implemented, which reflect a shared technical commitment in the two basins, in short, medium and long term.

List of the Steering Committee

First name & SURNMAE	Function	Institutions
Hélène SIRDER	1 st Vice-President	Collectivité Territoriale de Guyane (CTG)
Riad NURMOHAMED	Minister of Public Works	Republic of Suriname
Tânia Maria DO SOCORRO BARROSO MIRANDA SOUSA	Executive Director-President	Economic Development Agency of the Amapá State
Jean-Bernard NILAM	Ambassador Delegate for Regional Cooperation West Indies-French Guiana	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Overseas
Antoine JOLY	Ambassador of France to Suriname	French Embassy in Suriname
Genia LANK-CORINDE	General Consul	Consulate of Suriname in French Guiana
Manoel GOMEZ-PERREIRA	General Consul	Consulate of Brazil in French Guiana
Anne MATHIEU	Head of Antenna in Paramaribo	Collectivité Territoriale de Guyane (CTG)
Éric TARDIEU	Chief Executive Officer	International Office for Water (OiEau)
Franck CHOW-TOUN	Head of the Water Planning and Forecasting Unit/Focal Point of the BIO-PLATEAUX project in French Guiana	Water Office of French Guiana
Wagner PINHEIRO COSTA	Executive Coordinator of Sectoral Policies for Economic and Regional Development / Focal point of the BIO-PLATEAUX project in Brazil	Economic Development Agency of the Amapá State
Peter DONK	Teacher-Researcher/Focal Point of the BIO-PLATEAUX project in Suriname	Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS)
Usha GAITRIE SATNARAIN	Teacher-Researcher/Focal Point of the BIO-PLATEAUX project in Suriname	Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdeKUS)
Elen PINHEIRO	Executive Coordinator of Sectoral Policies for Economic and Regional Development	Economic Development Agency of the Amapá State
Anne SUARD	Diplomatic Adviser	Prefecture of French Guiana
Viviane TCHUNG-MING	Head of the cooperation mission	Collectivité Territoriale de Guyane (CTG)
Sabine ROUE	Head of the office of the Cooperation Unit	Prefecture of French Guiana
Léone MARIMOUTOU	Project Manager of Cooperation	Prefecture of French Guiana

Hélène LOISEAU	Project Manager Europe	French Biodiversity Office (OFB)
François KORYSKO	Territorial Delegate	French Biodiversity Office (OFB)
Armand AMATALI	Director	The Hydraulic Research Laboratory (WLA) of Suriname
Arnaud ANSELIN	Deputy Director	French Guiana Amazonian Park (PAG)
Alexandre DE LA VOLPILIERE	Deputy Director	Regional Health Agency (ARS)
Franck ROUBAUD	Director	French Guiana Development Innovation (GDI)
Philippe POGGI	Regional Delegate for Research and Technology	Prefecture of French Guiana
Christine BELANGER	Water and Sanitation Project Manager	West municipality communities of French Guiana (CCOG)
Arthur MASSON	Head of the Hydrological Monitoring Unit	General Directorate for Territories and the Sea (DGTM)
Clément VILLIEN	ECOSEO Project Coordinator	WWF
Adrien SELLES	Regional Hydrogeologist	Geological and Mining Research Office (BRGM)
Frits KOSSO	Hydraulic Engineer	The Hydraulic Research Laboratory (WLA) of Suriname
Mohamed AMIERALI	Meteorologist	Meteorological Service of Suriname (MDS)
Alain BERNARD	Director of the BIO-PLATEAUX project	International Office for Water (OiEau)
Rémi BOYER	BIO-PLATEAUX Project Manager	International Office for Water (OiEau)
Célia BIANCAT	BIO-PLATEAUX local Coordinator	International Office for Water (OiEau)
Paul HAENER	Project Manager - Water Information Systems	International Office for Water (OiEau)
Marta BOYKO	Project Manager	International Office for Water (OiEau)
Catherine GUIGUI	Interpreter	
Joanna TROUFFLARD	Interpreter	
John MOON	Interpreter	



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