

THE GAMBIA • GUINEA • GUINEA-BISSAU • SENEGAL



GAMBIA RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION



# OMVG 1978 - 2022

*Concrete achievements for the  
development of hydroelectric resources  
in the Gambia, Kayanga/Géba  
and Koliba/Corubal river basins*

- MARCH 2022 -







# HISTORICAL

## 1964

First development initiatives with the establishment of a joint Commission between Senegal and Gambia with the assistance of UNDP and FAO.

## 1967

In accordance with the Senegalese-Gambian treaty signed the same year, the first work programme was undertaken in the basin with UNDP funding.

## 1976

Creation of the Coordinating Committee for the Development of the Gambia River Basin.

## 1978

The Gambia and Senegal create the Organisation for the Development of the Gambia River in Kaolack.

## 1981

Guinea, where the Gambia River rises, joins the two countries.

## 1983

Guinea-Bissau, which does not belong to the Gambia River basin but shares the Kayanga/Géba and Koliba/Corubal river basins with the three other States, joined the Organisation in its turn.

## 1987

Thanks to the accession of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, the competences of the OMVG were extended to the Kayanga/Géba and Koliba/Corubal rivers, and the River Gambia and its tributaries were given the status of "International Watercourses", guaranteeing the four Member States freedom of navigation and equality in all uses of river wates.





# MISSIONS

- Exploit in a rational and harmonious way the common resources of the Gambia, Kayanga/Géba and Koliba/Corubal river basins
- Achieve food self-sufficiency for the populations of the Basins
- Reducing the vulnerability of the economies of OMVG Member States to climatic hazards
- Accelerate the economic development of the Member States
- Preserve the balance of ecosystems in the sub-region and more particularly in the Basins
- Secure and improve the incomes of the populations of the Basins

# BASIC CONVENTIONS

1

**30 June 1978**

Convention establishing the Organisation for the Development of the Gambia River

- Defines the tasks, competences and bodies of the OMVG

Convention on the status of the Gambia River

- Confers on the River Gambia and its tributaries the status of «International Watercourse» and guarantees freedom of navigation and equality in all forms of use of the water of the River

2

**29 January 1985**

Convention relating to the legal status of common works

- Determines the legal status of the so-called common works and defines the rights and obligations of the co-owning States

3

**2 August 2008**

Conventions on the legal status of the Kayanga/Geba and Koliba/Corubal rivers

- Guarantee freedom of navigation and equality in all forms of water use of the Kayanga/Geba and Koliba/Corubal rivers

4

**29 January 2016**

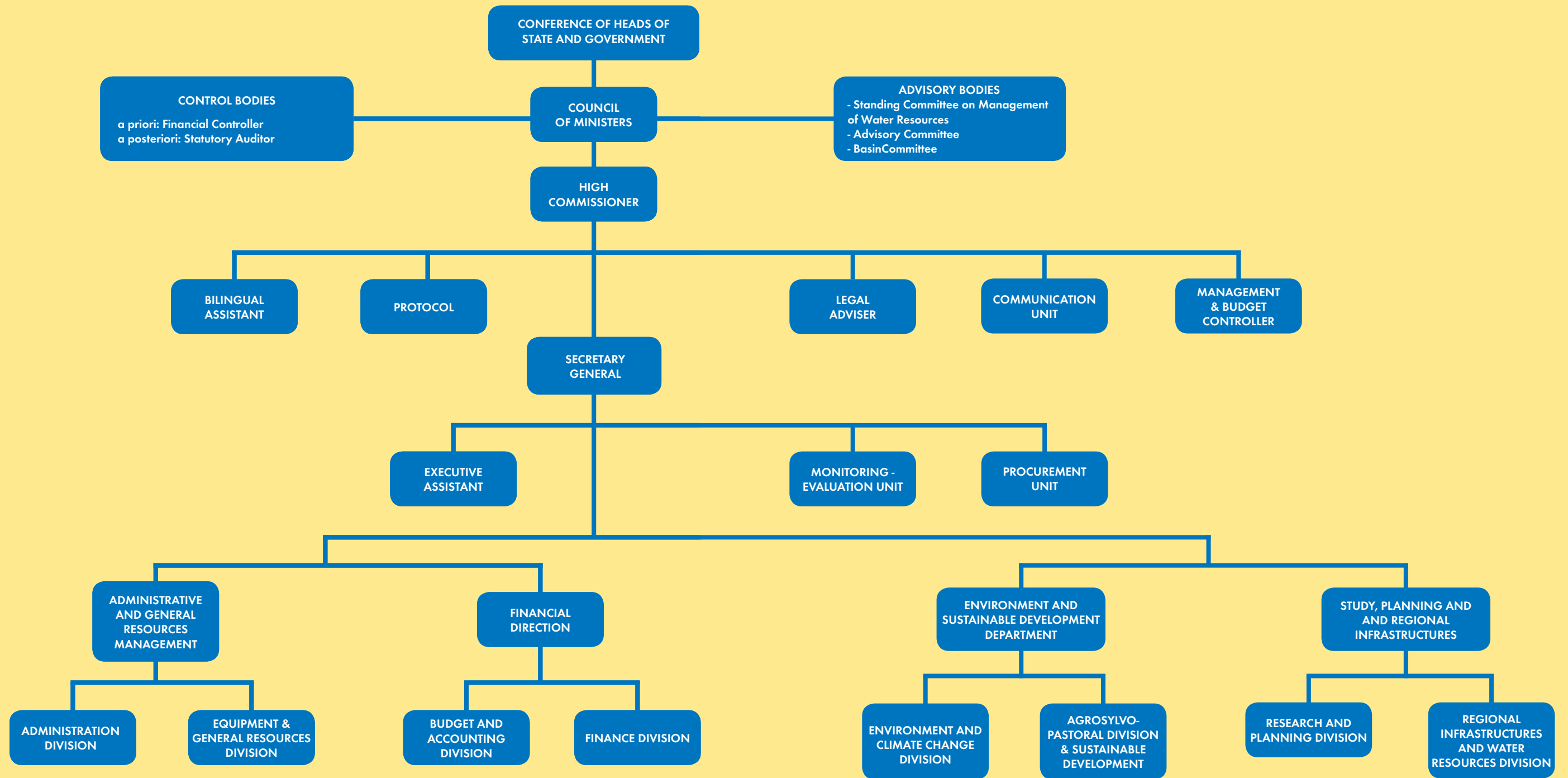
Convention establishing the SOGESART

- Creates the Sambangalou Energy Management Company and the Transport Network

## Reorganisation of the OMVG in 2016

Following the 1st Extraordinary Summit held on 29 January 2016 in Addis Ababa, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States restructured the Organisation, notably creating the positions of High Commissioner and Secretary General at the head of OMVG. The summit was also an opportunity to provide guidance for the start of the Energy Project works.

# ORGANISATION CHART





It should be stressed that the rotating Presidency of the Authority of Heads of State and Government, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and the High Commissioner are assured between the Member States. The distribution of the different positions has been made between the Member States. It can be modified, as necessary, by the Council of Ministers.



From right to left,  
His Excellency Umara Sissoco Emballo, President of Guinea-Bissau,  
Mr. Orlando Mendes Viegas, Minister of State,  
Minister of Natural Resources and President of the OMVG Council of Ministers,  
Elhadji Lansana Fofana, OMVG High Commissioner



# GOURVERNANCE

The OMVG High Commission has set up a mechanism for implementing and monitoring the Organisation's activities at national and local levels.

A National Monitoring Committee is set up in each of the four Member States.

A Local Coordination and Monitoring Committee has been created by decree taken by the prefect or governor in each of the 16 administrative subdivisions of the three basins.

These entities work to carry out the technical, socio-environmental, administrative and financial activities of the OMVG.







The Master Plan for the development of the Gambia, Kayanga-Geba and Koliba-Corubal river basins has identified several large-scale multi-sectoral projects and programmes, including:

- **The Bridge over the Gambia River** for which OMVG has carried out all the feasibility studies and detailed preliminary project as well as the Gambia-Senegal transport facilitation studies.
- **The Natural Resources Development and Management Project (NRDMP)**, which has already been implemented and which has made it possible to sustainably improve the living conditions of the populations in the project's area of concentration through the construction of basic infrastructure with 117 km of rural roads, 98 boreholes and 97 wells, 4 water towers equipped with solar pumps, and the setting up of self-managed credit systems for the benefit of the deprived populations.
- **The Integrated Water Resources Management Project in the Catchment Basin of the Kayanga-Geba River (IWRMP K-G)** whose construction works for the Hydro-Agricultural Development of Camposa (Kayanga/Géba River Basin) and related cross-border works are estimated at 40 million Euros. Feasibility and detailed Preliminary Project studies and Calls for Proposals are available. The overall investment programme for the Kayanga/Géba river basin over a 20-year period amounts to 417 million Euros. OMVG is seeking funding in order to conduct this investment programme.
- **The Integrated Water Resources Management Project in the Watersheds of the Gambia and Koliba-Corubal Rivers**, a project for the mobilisation and balanced and concerted development of water resources in the watersheds of the Gambia and Koliba/Corubal Rivers. The Concept Note and Terms of Reference are available. The OMVG is seeking funding in order to carry out the studies.



- The **Integrated Development Master Plan (IDMP)** for the Gambia, Kayanga-Géba and Koliba-Corubal rivers for which BRL Ingénierie, in association with COBA and IDEV, has been selected for its implementation. This project is funded by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and is part of the Blue Peace initiative, which has a mandate to promote peaceful cooperation in sharing water resources. The PDDI will produce an investment plan consisting of projects that can be financed.
- The **Digan, Kourawel and Saltinho-Cussilinta hydroelectric developments**, which are an integral part of the second generation works of the OMVG Energy program. The objective of this programme is to extend the electricity network that will link Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia and Senegal and to contribute to meeting the energy needs of the OMVG member countries. The studies leading to the detailed Preliminary Projects and the compilation of Tender Documents will be launched in early 2022 with the financial support of the AfDB.
- The **FelloSounga's hydroelectric and agricultural development on the Koliba/Corubal River (82 MW)** for which funding for pre-investment studies is also being sought from the AfDB. The OMVG plans to develop these projects on both public funding and public-private partnership (PPP) financing.
- The **Energy Project** launched in Kaléta on 4 February 2017 under the effective presidency of the Heads of State of Guinea, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau. After more than four years of execution, the Project proceeded to receive and power on several substations and line batches.

- The **Water Supply Project in the Villages along the River Basins under the OMVG's jurisdiction** financed by Veolia Environnement foundation. The OMVG and the VEOLIA foundation have initiated a partnership on the theme of access to water and energy for the benefit of the populations living alongside the rivers basins under OMVG jurisdiction (Gambia, Kayanga/Géba and Koliba/Corubal). A water access pilot project located in the Gambia river basin has been implemented for illustrative purposes with the establishment of a water treatment unit in the village of Sal in the Tambacounda region, Senegal. The works have been completed and the unit is operational since December 2019. The possibility of extending this experiment to 10 pre-selected sites in all OMVG Member States is under consideration.
- The **OMVG Support Project for the Development of Integrated Management and Data Enhancement** has been implemented since January 2021 with funding from the Swiss Cooperation, under the coordination of the Geneva Water Hub, with technical assistance from OiEau and in collaboration with the OMVG Member States. This project aims to develop a platform for shared management and data enhancement. Various products and services could be generated by exploiting the data sets made available. All the products can be consulted online via a web portal offering access to the various visualisation products: <https://www.aquacoope.org/gwh/>.
- The **Project of Diagnosis Study and Development of a Master Plan for the agricultural and forestry sector in the Gambia River basine** whose objective is to define the strategic areas of the development and management policy for the agricultural and forestry in this basine. It aims to propose a programme with short, medium and long term development action plans and to specify the accompanying measures and implementation modalities.





# ENERGY PROJECT FOCUS

## The Energy Project in figures

### Interconnection

- **1,646 km** of 225 kV interconnection lines equipped with 36 pairs of optical fibres
- **15** transformer substations HT/MT
- **2** SCADA / dispatching centres
- **1** image wall in Dakar
- **800 MW** of transport capacity
- **€620 million** budget
- **8** Technical and Financial Partners with contributions from Member States
- **17** contracts signed with **7** construction companies

### Sambangalou hydroelectric development (Kédougou, Senegal)

- **107 m** height on foundation
- **3.7 billion m<sup>3</sup>** of reservoir volume at normal operating water level
- **128 MW** installed capacity
- **402 GWH** of annual production capacity
- **188 km<sup>2</sup>** of reservoir at the normal operating water level, straddling Senegal (20%) and Guinea (80%)
- **1,000** jobs in the plan for the construction phase and **1,500 to 2,000 indirect jobs**
- **90,000 ha** of irrigation potential for agricultural land, including 50,000 ha in The Gambia and 40,000 ha in Senegal
- **€388 millions** budget
- **1** contract signed with the Vinci Construction - Andritz Group
- Flow regulation of the Gambia River resulting in a reduction of floods
- Retreat of the salt tongue in The Gambia



Projet Energie

[www.pe-omvg.org](http://www.pe-omvg.org)





### **OMVG and its Energy Project honoured**

The OMVG Energy Project was awarded, on 23 November 2017 in Paris, the Gold Trophy for the Best Energy Project on the African continent in 2017 (Best Energy Project 2017), by Africa Investments Forum & Awards. After this award, on 21 December 2017, it was at the Primature of the Republic of Senegal in Dakar that OMVG was distinguished by Strategic Foresight Group as the best Transboundary Water Management Organisation in the world in a tie with OMVS.







# PROSPECTS

Mythical Baobab located on the axis of the dam which will be moved to the surface stay-time of the construction site a few kilometres downstream

- **Preparation of the 2nd Generation Energy Project**
  - Digan (93.3 MW) and Fello-Songa (80 MW) hydroelectric developments in Guinea
  - Saltinho hydroelectric development (20 MW) in Guinea-Bissau
  - a roughly 500km long line that will connect the Digan, Fello-Sounga, Kourawel and Salthino hydroelectric power stations as well as the Soma (Gambia) and Tambacounda (Senegal) substations via the Bassé substation to be built.
- **The relaunch of the Road Infrastructures and Agricultural Development Programme**
- **The Koliba-Corubal IWMP**

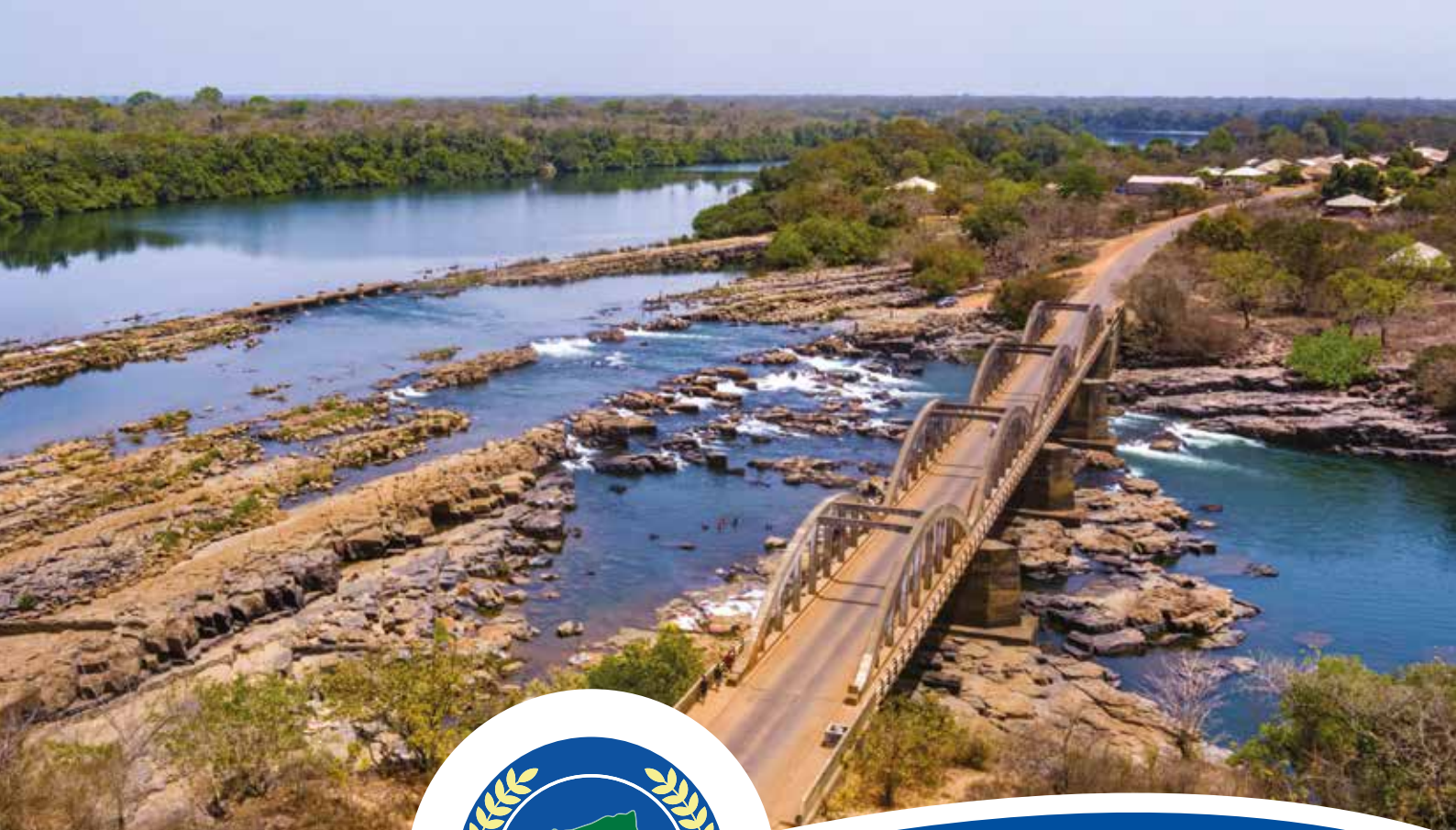
OMVG is seeking funding from its various Technical and Financial Partners.
- **Exploring innovative financing mechanisms**

To accelerate the pace of its achievements, OMVG explores innovative financing mechanisms, alongside traditional financing. With the help of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the United Nations Capital Development Fund, OMVG wishes to tap the international capital markets to finance its Integrated Sustainable Development Plan (ISDP), which will define its investments for the next 30 years.



The firmly expressed political will of the Heads of State and Government, the results obtained since the relaunch of the Programmes and Projects and the precious and constant support of the Technical and Financial Partners make OMVG today a real instrument for strengthening cooperation and sub-regional integration, a guarantee of economic and social development, but also of peace and stability for its Member States.





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