



TANO RIVER BASIN: GHANA AND IVORY COAST



The Tano River serves as both a national border and a valuable natural resource

COUNTRY: Ghana and Ivory Coast
START DATE: February 2007
FUNDING: \$250,000 – WADA
 \$250,000 – USAID/West Africa

KEY PARTNERS:

- Coca-Cola Northwest Africa
- Ghana Bottling Company – local Coca-Cola bottler
- USAID/West Africa
- CARE International

ACTIVITIES SUMMARY:

- Watershed management, capacity-building, infrastructure construction, and conflict prevention activities in a transboundary river basin

BENEFICIARIES:

- 20,000 people benefiting from improved water supply services
- 8,000 schoolchildren benefiting from healthy sanitation facilities
- 1,000 hectares of riparian area rehabilitated

ALLIANCE OBJECTIVES:

- **Watershed Management**
 - Encouraging reforestation in riparian zones through tree planting and agroforestry
 - Improving fire management capacity in communities, traditional institutions, and local government
 - Improving transboundary collaboration between Ghanaian and Ivorian water management institutions
- **Water Supply and Sanitation Services**
 - Constructing 10 boreholes with storage capacity
 - Constructing 10 school latrine blocks with handwashing stations
- **Hygiene and Sanitation Behavior**
 - Promoting hygiene behavior change for school children



Protecting the Tano River through reforestation and improved sanitation is expanding opportunities for fishermen

COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF SHARED WATER RESOURCES

The Water and Development Alliance (WADA) is supporting the sustainable use and management of the Tano River Basin spanning the border between Ghana and Ivory Coast. The project supports activities to improve health and the environment as a foundation for cross-border dialogue and sound environmental management. Upstream, communities struggle against the adverse impacts of wildfires and soil erosion on water quality and biodiversity. Downstream, people drink water directly from the Tano River and schools lack latrines and safe water for handwashing, threatening the health of children and their families. In each location, WADA is supporting the commitment of authorities on both sides of the border by devoting resources to engage stakeholders of both countries in promoting effective, collaborative, and peaceful resource management.

Through its principal implementing partner, CARE, WADA is addressing several issues affecting the water quality of the Tano River and the lives of those who rely on its use. At the Tano's source, the project works to mitigate the effects of extractive industries and environmental degradation by reforesting hundreds of denuded acres and strengthening local governance. Downstream, partners are constructing latrines and hand-washing facilities in schools, as well as water supply systems for general use, interventions that directly benefit 4,000 families including 8,000 schoolchildren.

Because of the Tano River's dual significance as a national border and a precious natural resource, WADA is supporting efforts to prevent resource conflict in this region by formalizing collaboration and regular information exchange. The project is facilitating shared and equitable water development in the two countries and providing positive opportunities for cross-boundary engagement.