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PRESS RELEASE

Niger Basin Authority benefits from AWF supports to collect reliable information on the Niger River Basin

Tunis 18 October 2006- On 18th of October 2006, a delegation of the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) led by Mr. Mohammed BELLO TUGA visited the AWF Director, Mr. Kordjé Bedoumra in Tunis to sign a Grant Agreement for the Niger-HYCOS project of 1,2 million Euro.

The Niger-HYCOS project represents a joint basin-wide hydrological monitoring system that is a necessary basis for NBA and the member countries to perform their water resources planning and development responsibilities.

The Niger-HYCOS project will support socio-economic development and poverty reduction in the Niger River Basin through a direct contribution to improved physical investments in the basin in terms of construction and operation of urgently required water reservoirs for flow control, hydropower development, establishment of flood protection infrastructure, irrigation development, building of ports and facilities for inland river navigation, development of municipal and industrial water supply and sanitation services, and erosion and sediment control interventions.

Moreover, the project will lead to enhanced regional cooperation among the nine riparian countries sharing the river basin by its strengthening of the Niger Basin Authority as a nucleus and driving force of integrated water resources management across national boundaries. The African Water Facility (AWF) is an initiative led by the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) to mobilize financial resources for water sector development in Africa. Created in 2004, the AWF is hosted and managed by the African Development Bank (AfDB). Further information on the AWF is available at www.africanwaterfacility.org

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