

Basin short profile

Name	Volta River	Country	Ghana, Burkina Faso																																							
Area	400,710 km ²	Altitude	From 920 m to the sea																																							
Rainfall/Evapo	<p>Average rainfall: 1000 mm Max: >1565 mm Min: 876 mm: Modal/bimodal: bimodal in the South and Modal in the North Crop reference ETo: 1850 mm/year</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Monthly Rainfall and Potential Evapotranspiration (mm/month)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Rainfall (mm)</th> <th>Potential Evapotranspiration (mm)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Jan</td><td>70</td><td>140</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb</td><td>60</td><td>150</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar</td><td>110</td><td>170</td></tr> <tr><td>Apr</td><td>140</td><td>150</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>110</td><td>160</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun</td><td>50</td><td>170</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul</td><td>60</td><td>190</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug</td><td>50</td><td>200</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep</td><td>70</td><td>180</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct</td><td>180</td><td>160</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov</td><td>250</td><td>130</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec</td><td>150</td><td>140</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Month	Rainfall (mm)	Potential Evapotranspiration (mm)	Jan	70	140	Feb	60	150	Mar	110	170	Apr	140	150	May	110	160	Jun	50	170	Jul	60	190	Aug	50	200	Sep	70	180	Oct	180	160	Nov	250	130	Dec	150	140
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Landuse (1985)	Forest: % (including % of afforestation); Shifting cultivation %; Savanah: %; Homesteads/ orchard: %																																									
Irrigation	Approximately 10,000 ha formal irrigation, informal unknown. Between 1 and 2% of crop area.																																									
Water Indicators	<p>Runoff coefficient: 8 % Renewable water available: m³/year/pers Regulated water (% rainfall and % run-off): % and % Beneficial (process) depleted fraction: 10% Non-committed outflow to the sea: ≈ 8% of total runoff Water diverted per person: ≈ /day/capita Water use per sector (depletion): Agriculture 66%, Industry/domestic use: 24%</p>																																									
Drinking water	Mostly from wells, river water (treated and piped) for 2 cities																																									
Main crop(s)/yield	Yams, maize, millet and sorghum																																									
Population	14,500,000 people; Pop. Density: 49 ha/km² . Sex ratio: ; % Population under 18: Religion: Muslim, Christian, and Animists, Population growth: 2.5 % per annum.																																									
Floods	Occasional flooding in the upper catchment																																									
Groundwater	Only % of withdrawals in the basin are from groundwater. Groundwater levels drop during the dry season. Groundwater available along streams and in some deep fractured zones in the basement rock.																																									
Environmental and health issues	Coastal lagoon ecology changed by inflow of fresh water Unacceptably high fluoride concentrations in some of wells used for drinking water Erosion, burning																																									
Protected areas	Mole National Park, Réserve Totale du Singou, Réserve Partielle de Pama, Réserve Partielle Madjoari, Parc National de l'Arli, Réserve Partielle de la Kourtiagou and other smaller parks																																									
Land/labour	Average farm size (irrig): 1.5 ha	Rural daily wage: variable																																								
Land tenure	Most land allocated by traditional authorities																																									
Water Management	There is no basin level organization. The DGIRH and WRC are in charge of water management in Burkina Faso and Ghana respectively.																																									
Allocation rules	.																																									
Hydropower	1060 MW from the Akosombo and Kpong Dams																																									
Legal framework	In Burkina Faso and Ghana water management is now in the hands of the DGIRH and WRC																																									

Politics, Civil Society	Stakeholders participation in natural resource management is very limited. Several NGOs are present in the basin and deal with water harvesting, public health initiatives, nutrition, agricultural technical support and training. Weak presence on institutional issues.
Future developments	Construction of the Bui Dam an on again off again proposition

General basin layout

