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Africa: Working Group on Space Hydrology

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Africa: Working Group on Space Hydrology

A Working Group on Space Hydrology, facilitated by IOWater, was established in 2014 and gathers the CNES, IRD, AFD, IRSTEA, BRLi and CNR.

The working group met on three occasions in 2015: in February on the premises of the CNR in Lyons, in June on the CNES site in Toulouse, in October at the BRL head office in Nimes and then in Paris early 2016.

Two members of the **International Congo-Ubangi-Sangha Basin Commission (CICOS)** attended the meeting in Nimes for future cooperation: the Congo Basin is being approached to be the pilot basin for the SWOT project as it has already a HYCOS project funded by AFD and FFEM, and European satellite altimetry projects (AMESD and MESA).

The SWOT (Surface Water and Ocean Topography) satellite program is a French-American project of Earth observation satellite that will provide for 2020 the spatial and temporal variations in the water levels of major rivers and lakes, in the flows of large rivers and in the ocean levels.

This union between space and hydrology at the service of IWRM should provide basin organizations with new tools for measurements and hydrological monitoring.

Satellite altimetry is a component among others of operational hydrology.

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