



**RIVER GAMBIA
REVITALISATION PROJECT :
STRATEGIES FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Outline

- Introduction
- Background
- Economic Potential
- Current state of Gambia River Transportation
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- Proposed projects
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Introduction

Gambia River as a vital waterway in West Africa has historically facilitated trade, transport, and socio-cultural exchange among nations bordering it.

Its potential for economic enhancement through effective transportation systems remains largely underutilized.

This paper will discuss strategies aimed at revitalizing Gambia river transportation, enhancing connectivity, and promoting sustainable development in the region.



Background

The Gambia River was the mainstay of the Gambia's transport system prior to the development of road transport.

Used extensively with regular ship movements to the inland port of Kaur, 193km upstream from Banjul.

Navigable up to 477km to Fatoto from Banjul.

Over 200 privately owned groundnut cutters in Banjul, engaged in transporting groundnut on the River.

Several other private companies were operating boats on the River as it took several days on roads to transport their goods up country

River transport led to the development of many settlements along the River as trading depots and administrative centers.

National transport Policy 2018-2027

Noting that revamping river transport services will hugely impact socio-economic development of The Gambia, GOG through MOTWI has in the New NDP (YIRIWAA) and the national Transport Policy 2018-2027 reshaped a new mission couched:



National Transport Policy 2018-2027

MISSION

- To develop and promote a seaport and water transport industry in support of the long-term expansion of the productive capacity of the economy and the improvement of the living standards of the Gambian population.

KEY POLICY OBJECTIVES

- Promote the revitalization of river and inland water transport to complement the development of coastal shipping, and road transport to enhance the country's capacity to serve as a distribution center for the sub-region.

Potentials

Revitalizing Gambia river transport system is essential to reinvigorate economic activities, improve access to remote areas, and promote tourism.



Potentials



- Eco tourism
- Employment generation
- Cost effective , reliable, and safer
- Overall NEB in terms of GHG emissions
- Promotion of economic development



River transport could potentially address the following challenges:

- High economic, social and environmental cost of trucking
- Road accidents/fatalities

Key objectives include:

- Assess the current state of Gambia River transportation infrastructure
- Identify key stakeholders and potential partnership
- Propose projects to modernize and enhance river transportation
- Promote sustainable practices in river transport

Objectives



Current state of Gambia River Transportation

- **Dilapidated infrastructure** - Many ports and landing sites in a state of disrepair
- **Regulatory framework** -Lack of comprehensive of regulations and weak enforcement regime in terms of growth and safety
- **Environmental concerns** - pollution and environmental degradation (land- based sources of pollution threaten the health of the river ecosystem)

Existing Projects

Concession agreement with Albayrak Group



Effective delivery techniques

- Inland Container Depot at Kaur - establish strategic logistic hub that will facilitate the efficient movement of goods. By streamlining cargo handling and reducing transit times, it will promote better integration with the river transport system.
- Inland Container Depot at Basse - central point for sub regional cargo transfer promoting trade within the region/enhance connectivity between river transport and land-based logistics
- Port rehabilitation projects - infrastructure and equipment upgrade to improve their functionality and capacity
- Establishment of a deep seaport in Sanyang - attract deep draft vessels/economies of scale
- Community engagement initiative - local community involvement
- Grant - GoG soliciting \$500M through MCC for capacity development

Proposed projects

- Infrastructure rehabilitation and development
- Enhance regulatory framework
- Boating and navigation
- Sustainable practices
- Promoting tourism

Key stakeholders include:

- Government Agencies
- Private sector
- Community organizations - local NGOs/CSOs
- International partners - donor organizations/development agencies



Recommendation

Recommendations

- Establish a multi-stakeholder task force to oversee the implementation of proposed projects.
- Secure funding through international partnerships and local investment.
- Develop a long-term management plan for sustainable river transportation practices.
- Tourism Development to complement freight transportation.



Conclusion

Revitalizing the Gambia River transportation system holds the potential to significantly impact economic growth and community well-being. By implementing strategic projects that focus on infrastructure, regulations, sustainability, and tourism, we can restore the Gambia river as a central artery of trade and culture. Collaborative efforts will be essential to the success of these programs, creating a resilient transport system for future generations.

Thank you

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