

WAPIS

NUMBER 27 MAY 2025

NEWSLETTER



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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

It is with considerable emotion that I am addressing you via this - the very last - issue of the West African Police Information System (WAPIS) Programme newsletter.

Firstly, I would like to seize the opportunity offered by this newsletter to take stock of the WAPIS Programme, which kicked off in September 2012 and is ending in May 2025 and secondly, to thank all those who made a contribution to WAPIS.

We should not forget the three key stages of the WAPIS Programme: a conception phase (2012 - 2013) followed by a pilot phase (2013 - 2016) and then a period of transition (2016 - 2018) culminating in general deployment spanning from 2017 to 2025. The WAPIS Programme was fully funded by the European Union from its outset in 2012 - a budget of EUR 38 million - and was implemented by INTERPOL with the overall objective of strengthening the capacity of West African law enforcement agencies in the fight against transnational crime and terrorism through better management and more effective sharing of police data. This was achieved thanks to a series of complementary actions including:

- The standardization and structuring of the management of police information at national and regional level in West Africa, in particular by adopting appropriate legal frameworks;
- The development and deployment of a digital police information management system backed up by technical and operational capacities to facilitate the collection, centralization, management and sharing of data at national, sub-regional and international level;
- The intensification of information sharing between West African security forces and the global law enforcement community.

As the WAPIS Programme draws to a close, one essential question remains: does every participating country have all the requisite organizational, technical, human and financial resources to ensure the sustainability of the systems put in place?

We should remember that the sustainability of the system has always been core to the Programme and was a clearly identified strategic goal from day one.



This Programme
is funded by the
European Union

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With this in mind, one last workshop on WAPIS System sustainability in the participating countries was held on the margins of the last meeting of the WAPIS Programme Steering Committee. This workshop enabled each country, in the light of their actual institutional and operational situation, to identify the most pertinent drivers and measures from the array of recommendations issued with a view to ensuring the continuity, efficacy and ownership of the WAPIS system over the long term.

The discussions during this workshop confirmed that - despite the socio-economic difficulties faced by a number of participating countries - WAPIS is here to stay. In fact, it is so well established in the security architecture of many states in the region that it looks set to be consolidated and extended.

On a more private level, the WAPIS Programme has been a most rewarding experience in both personal and professional terms since I came on board at the last minute in March 2017. These eight years have sped by, marked by day-to-day commitment, unwavering devotion and, at times, personal sacrifices, in particular regarding family life.

It would not have been possible without the support and engagement of each and every one of the Programme team members. I would like to thank and commend all those who were part of the WAPIS team which I had the honour to lead.

The WAPIS Programme could never have been so productive without the impressive level of engagement and total buy-in of the participating countries.

I would like to sincerely thank the Ministers of Security and Justice who had oversight of the Programme in their respective countries as well as the heads of law enforcement agencies (police, gendarmerie, narcotics departments, immigration etc.) for their enduring mobilization.

I would also like to warmly thank the WAPIS national contact points (SPOC) and the DACORE directors as well as the system administrators, validators, operators and trainers whose everyday work was a linchpin of the Programme's success.

I must not forget the INTERPOL National Central Bureaus (NCBs) who played a strategic liaison role between INTERPOL and the countries, thereby ensuring seamless coordination throughout the duration of the Programme.

I would also like to thank the ECOWAS Commission, and particularly its Regional Department of Peace and Security for its support, its engagement and its goodwill. Drs Cyriaque Agnekethom and Abdourahmane Dieng in particular offered their unfailing support during troubled times.

My thanks also go out to the European Union which went over and above its role of financial sponsor becoming actively involved in implementation through its various delegations. I would like to single out Anne-Catherine Claude for her solution-oriented mindset and kindness and Stéphanie Aglietti who joined us later on. My thoughts also go out to Michel Lalogue who unfortunately left us too soon.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my own Organization, INTERPOL, for the trust it placed in me in 2017 by giving me the heavy responsibility of running the WAPIS Programme at a time when it was experiencing difficulties. I had to learn fast, get to grips with the many facets of this complex programme and commit fully to the task in hand. I would like to sincerely thank the former Secretary General Mr Jürgen Stock, the Executive Directors and Directors who provided me with their unfailing support, trust and precious experience: Tim Morris, Carl Alexandre, Dirk Allaerts, Laurent Grosse, Stephen Kavanagh, Cyril Gout and Peter Ambs. My gratitude also extends to all the teams at INTERPOL who contributed to the success of the Programme: Legal Affairs, Finance, Purchasing, General Services, the PPMO as well as the Abidjan Regional Bureau. Our Finance Administrator Tony Sakr, who has been by my side since my arrival in 2017, is particularly deserving of my gratitude.

Lastly, thanks to Côte d'Ivoire for offering me a home for five years.

Merci, Thank You, Obrigado, شكرا

AFIS CORNER

An unprecedented feat: Three Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) deployed in three pilot countries in three months.

Initially set up in March 2022 to strengthen the technical and operational capacity of the forensic police in the 16 West-African countries, the EU-funded AFIS project of INTERPOL's WAPIS Programme crossed an important milestone in the second half of 2024 with the complete installation of AFIS technology in the three pilot countries: Benin, the Gambia and Togo.

This Automated Fingerprint Identification System (a criminal database also including palm prints and ridge traces) is a cutting-edge tool for elucidating criminal cases and reducing the risk of judicial error.

Installing three complete AFIS systems in three different countries in record time was quite a challenge; one that was successfully addressed by a team of highly qualified dedicated experts. Deployment took place simultaneously - in less than three months between October and December 2024 - a record at INTERPOL! It was a major feat in technical, logistic and human terms and should be acknowledged as such.

As a reminder, the Thales group was selected following an international call for tenders for the supply of this technology under the supervision of INTERPOL experts.

Over and above the technological prowess, this achievement pays tribute to the exemplary cooperation between the stakeholders in the countries, namely the Ministries of Justice and Security, law enforcement, the forensic police, and international partners. It paves the way for faster, more reliable justice with greater compliance with fundamental rights.

The progress achieved in the pilot countries was presented officially at the 5th meeting of the AFIS Project Steering and Coordination Committee attended by representatives of the three countries, technical and financial partners and INTERPOL experts. This strategic framework provided the ideal context for reviewing progress, sharing best practice and planning the next steps in regional deployment.

This success in the three pilot countries is a significant step forward in the regional deployment of the AFIS project and will provide firm foundations for its gradual extension to the other ECOWAS Member States.



Presentation of the substantial progress made by the AFIS project at the 5th meeting of its Steering and Coordination Committee

LEAD STORIES

Togo opens a criminal intelligence analysis unit and moves closer to a more integrated and efficient security system

Togo crossed an important milestone towards strengthening its capacity to fight against transnational organized crime on 17 December 2024 when it officially inaugurated a Criminal Intelligence Analysis Unit (ANACRIM) in its DACORE, the Togo Police Information Centre (CIPT).

This achievement is the result of exemplary collaboration between the WAPIS Programme and Project ENACT (Enhancing Africa's Response to Transnational Organized Crime), both of which are funded by the European Union and implemented by INTERPOL.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by H. E. Ambassador Calixte Batossie Madjoulba, Togo's Minister for Security and Civil Protection. The event was attended by a number of VIPs including ambassadors from the European Union, ECOWAS and France, underlining the strategic importance of this new unit.

Two training sessions were organized by INTERPOL before the unit went into operation in order to select and train the police officers who form the unit's founding team. The IT equipment and software as well as the premises where the unit is housed were procured thanks to WAPIS Programme funding.

Togo is now home to the ninth unit in a network of criminal intelligence analysis units recently created in Africa thanks to support from the ENACT project, further consolidating the endeavours of the continent to progress in strategic analysis and criminal intelligence.

In his closing speech, the Minister from Togo expressed his personal determination, and that of the government, to ensure this new unit and WAPIS became the cornerstone of the country's security architecture serving the fight against organized crime and terrorism.



Official inauguration by H. E. Ambassador Calixte Batossie Madjoulba

Senegal sets up a criminal intelligence analysis unit, crossing a new milestone in the fight against organized crime and terrorism

In a region facing a surge in security threats, Senegal has crossed an important milestone by setting up a criminal intelligence analysis unit (ANACRIM) in its Data Collection and Registration Centre, (DACORE) in February 2025.

This initiative, which is supported by INTERPOL as part of the WAPIS Programme and ENACT project, is intended to strengthen the technical and analytical capacities of law enforcement in their fight against organized crime and

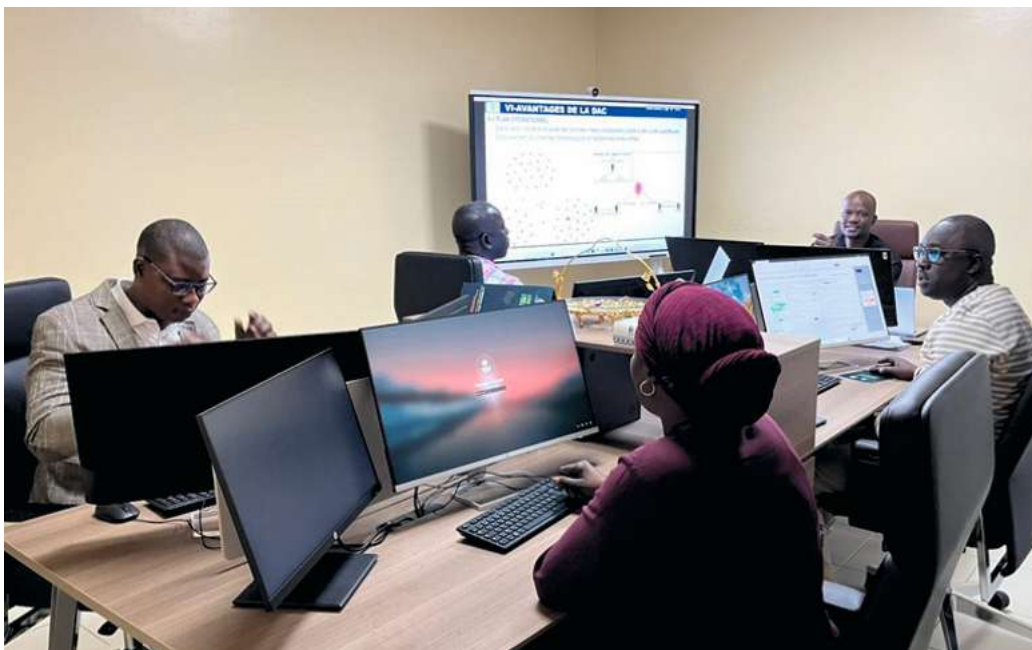
terrorism. Thanks to the support of the ENACT project, Senegalese analysts have been trained so that they can join this strategic unit which will be a key driver in better understanding threats and informing security decisions.

The unit will be tasked with producing operational analysis reports on criminal networks as well as strategic evaluations of crime trends such as drug trafficking, human trafficking or terrorist funding. These outputs will provide insights for the authorities regarding the implementation of security policy based on reliable and up-to-date data.

INTERPOL has provided the tools and equipment required to set the unit up and will continue its support via a 12-month mentoring programme including technical advice and best practice.

The Senegalese authorities are extremely committed to the unit, recognizing its pivotal role in the national security architecture, and have expressed their intention to ensure its sustainability and continue to invest in human and material resources.

This achievement is fully aligned with the goals of the WAPIS Programme, contributing to building an integrated and coordinated approach to criminal intelligence in the West-African region. INTERPOL is delighted by this constructive partnership with Senegal and has reiterated its commitment to support member countries in their acquisition of modern, interconnected and resilient security apparatus.



Analysts and representatives of the Senegal security forces at a working session in the new DACORE criminal intelligence analysis unit (ANACRIM)



Official visit of the INTERPOL Secretary General to the Côte d'Ivoire CTIP



Group photo at the Police Data Processing Centre (CTIP)

INTERPOL Secretary General Mr Valdecy Urquiza made an official visit to Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire on 18 and 19 February 2025 to meet with representatives of the country's highest authorities. One of the highlights of this visit was a tour of the Police Data Processing Centre (CTIP), the Côte d'Ivoire DACORE which was set up as part of the WAPIS Programme.

The Secretary General was welcomed by the CTIP Director, Chief Police Commissioner Doumbia, and was given a detailed presentation of the centre followed by a guided tour of the facilities.

Mr Urquiza sincerely commended the Côte d'Ivoire authorities for their engagement and their proactive role in rolling out the WAPIS Programme in West Africa.

pointed to the fact that this modern centre would considerably strengthen national capacities in the fight against transnational crime and terrorism thanks to better management and more effective sharing of police data.

The visit ended with the Secretary General signing the guestbook followed by a group photo.

This visit testifies to INTERPOL's clear recognition of the endeavours of Côte d'Ivoire and confirms the CTIP's strategic position in the regional security architecture put in place thanks to the WAPIS Programme.



INTERPOL Secretary General Mr Valdecy Urquiza gets a warm welcome from the CTIP Director, Chief Police Commissioner Doumbia

WAPIS workshop in Abidjan: roadmap for the long-term future of WAPIS systems in West Africa

The workshop on WAPIS system sustainability in the participating countries which took place on 1 April 2025 in Abidjan was a strategic milestone for the WAPIS EDF 3 project which is drawing to a close. This event made it possible to lay the foundations for autonomous, longlasting and efficient management of the systems put in place as part of the WAPIS Programme.

The representatives of the beneficiary countries together with the institutional partners such as ECOWAS, WAEMU, the European Union and INTERPOL shared their experiences throughout the day, evaluating the state of progress of the Programme and defining their priorities for the future.

The discussions shed light on the significant achievements of the Programme: the gradual integration of WAPIS in national security architectures, the consolidation of technical infrastructure (DACORE), the development of skills thanks to targeted training and the creation of WAPIS databases with increasing levels of interconnection with the INTERPOL I-24/7 system.

Moreover, the workshop identified the challenges to address in order to ensure the sustainability of these achievements. Tangible recommendations were formulated concerning institutional, technical, budgetary and community factors. There was unanimous acknowledgement of the importance of a political and legal anchor, sustainable financing, the integration of WAPIS in national security policy and the development of human and technological resources. The example of countries such as Benin, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal proves that it is possible to keep up a strong momentum of sustainability by combining political commitment, technical expertise and community engagement.

This workshop produced clear roadmaps for groups of countries, factoring in their level of maturity in the deployment of the Programme. The exchange of expert advice between Member States, the sharing of best practices and the pooling of regional efforts were all recognized as essential drivers to boost collective security.

The 11th meeting of the WAPIS Steering Committee held on 2 April 2025 in Abidjan built on the momentum of the previous day. The Committee officially approved the recommendations formulated during the workshop and called for them to be implemented post haste.

To conclude, ECOWAS praised the commitment of the participating countries and expressed its faith in their ability to ensure the continuity of the WAPIS Programme on both regional and national level. The Abidjan workshop was not only an opportunity to take stock of the Programme; it also formulated a shared forward-looking vision to make WAPIS a sustainable instrument serving security in West Africa.



Group work during the WAPIS workshop in Abidjan



Group photo taken during the workshop on WAPIS system sustainability held in Abidjan on 1 April 2025

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Ceremony marking the handover of the West African Police Information System (WAPIS) in Abuja: a strategic turning point for regional sovereignty in security.

The official handover ceremony of WAPIS to the West African regional and national authorities took place on 8 April 2025 in the main conference hall of the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja. This historic moment celebrates the ownership of the system by the states in the region and consolidates their collective engagement to fight organized crime and terrorism.

The event in Abuja was attended by a number of VIPs including Dr Ibrahim Gaidam, Nigerian Minister of Police Affairs, H. E. Gautier Mignot, EU Ambassador to Nigeria, representatives of the ECOWAS Commission and members of the embassies of ECOWAS Member States and the EU. INTERPOL was represented by Mr Cyril Gout, Police Services Executive Director and the head of NCB

Nigeria attended on behalf of the Inspector General of the Nigerian police. The ceremony was presided over by Dr Abdel-Fatau Musah, ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, representing the President of the Commission, H. E. Dr. Omar Aliou Touray.

The speeches all commended the exemplary partnership between the European Union, INTERPOL, ECOWAS and the West African countries, underlining that WAPIS was a precious legacy reflecting strong political commitment to regional security.

The various speakers underscored the necessity for the regional governments to take full ownership of the system and ensure its continuity once the international financing cycles had come to an end. The official handover of WAPIS is not an end unto itself but opens up a new chapter in which the Member States will play a leading role in the management and development of the system with the continuing support of INTERPOL.

A documentary produced with the aid of INTERPOL's Communications Directorate was shown on this occasion. The film highlights the benefits of WAPIS in the field, illustrating how the system allows police forces to better tackle various types of crime, in particular, weapons and drug trafficking, human trafficking, and the theft and handling of stolen vehicles.

The ceremony wound up with the official awarding of INTERPOL certificates and recognition plaques to the ECOWAS Commission and national authorities. The Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security received this honour on behalf of the regional authorities while the Nigerian Minister of Police Affairs accepted it for the West African States.

This symbolic handover, which is imbued with hope, testifies to the shared desire to make WAPIS a sustainable instrument to serve security, police cooperation and information sovereignty in West Africa.



Left to right: H. E. Gautier Mignot (EU), Dr Ibrahim Gaidam (Nigeria), Dr Abdel-Fatau Musah (ECOWAS), Mr Cyril Gout (INTERPOL)

A SOLID LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO FOSTER REGIONAL SECURITY: THE LEGAL LEGACY OF THE WAPIS PROGRAMME

For more than a decade, the WAPIS Programme has been helping West African countries build a solid legal framework guaranteeing efficient, secure police data sharing in compliance with international standards. By providing constant legal support, the Programme has enabled major legislative developments, laying the foundations of sustainable cooperation in the fight against transnational crime and terrorism.



After nearly 13 years in operation in West Africa, the WAPIS Programme can boast an impressive legal track record. The participating countries have adopted the legal measures required to implement the Programme, attesting to their commitment

to regional cooperation and security. This achievement is the result of the hard work and close cooperation between participating countries and the WAPIS Programme team and represents a major step forward in the fight against transnational organized crime and terrorism in the region.

The establishment of a suitable legal framework right from the outset to facilitate police information sharing between law enforcement agencies in West Africa at national, regional and international level was decisive in ensuring the lawfulness and sustainability of WAPIS. Each participating country signed a Memorandum of Understanding with INTERPOL, under which the parties committed to defining their obligations including the establishment of the legal framework required to achieve the Programme's national goals.

Thanks to the legal assistance provided by the WAPIS Programme, the participating countries adopted the necessary regulations to govern the creation and operation of their national WAPIS, their Data Collection and Registration Centre (DACORE) and their national WAPIS Committee. This assistance also contributed to protecting the personal data collected and processed in their national WAPIS systems, thereby guaranteeing compliance with individual rights and the confidentiality of sensitive information.

In addition to the assistance provided to the states in establishing the legal framework required to implement the WAPIS Programme at national level, one of the enduring priorities of the Programme was to protect the personal data collected and processed in national WAPIS systems. In this connection, with the encouragement and, where necessary, the assistance of the Programme, all the countries possessing a personal data protection authority have declared their WAPIS system to the relevant authority and received its decision. Those countries who do not yet

possess a data protection authority have been enjoined to create one, so as to be able to make this declaration, which some of them have duly done.

Throughout the Programme, those countries which did not possess a personal data protection law were enjoined to adopt suitable legislation and received assistance from the Programme in examining their respective bills. At the end of the Programme, only four of the 16 countries had not yet adopted a law on this matter, but all had a bill being drafted or in the process of being adopted. This significant progress makes West Africa the African region which is the most advanced in terms of personal data protection legislation.

Moreover, the Programme produced a guide and a brochure to make WAPIS users aware of best practices regarding personal data protection. For the same reason, training sessions were dispensed to WAPIS users as well as to Data Protection Officers in the DACOREs. National trainers were also trained to ensure the continuation of this training and its deployment to all WAPIS users, thereby building capacity amongst all the various stakeholders.

At regional level, the WAPIS Programme provided support to ECOWAS by drawing up a draft community text to provide for the establishment of a regional platform for sharing police data as well as standard operating procedures. This highly promising platform will have a key role to play in strengthening police cooperation between Member States in the region, thereby contributing to increasing security and combating cross-border threats more efficiently.

As the WAPIS Programme winds to a close, we are pleased to have been able to contribute to the efforts made at both national and regional level. We are particularly proud of the advances made in terms of legislation thanks to close and constructive collaboration between the participating countries and the Programme team. These achievements have created solid foundations for the collection and processing of data in compliance with standards in national WAPIS systems as well as the secure sharing of data via the future WAPIS regional platform, paving the way for more efficient police cooperation and greater security across the region.

FEEDBACK FROM KEY PARTICIPANTS: THE PEOPLE WHO MADE WAPIS HAPPEN

As WAPIS EDF 3 draws to a close, we felt it was important to look back at the progress made by giving an opportunity to the people who contributed to its success to speak out. Much more than just a Programme, WAPIS was a rewarding experience with its share of challenges, lessons learned and partnerships.

This section gives members of staff, partners and representatives in the field an opportunity to share memories, voice opinions and highlight the milestone events which took place during their years of involvement.

These testimonials pay tribute to the existing accomplishments and - who knows - may help shape the initiatives of the future.

Ms Marina Yetongnon Edwards

As a legal advisor to the WAPIS Programme from January 2020 onwards, I had the honour of working side by side with the participating countries to create a solid legal framework for the Programme. Our legal assignment was to ensure that WAPIS was efficient, sustainable and complied with personal data protection standards.

I would like to thank my colleagues, the participating countries and the partners for their collaboration and engagement. Together, we were able to prove that legal certainty is also a key contributor to the fight against crime and to the quest for greater security for the population of the West African region.

But the WAPIS Programme is much more than that. It is a family, a dynamic and caring community, which proved capable of creating a unique team spirit. I am proud to be a member of this WAPIS family and to have been able to contribute to its development and participate in this fantastic venture.

I am convinced that the WAPIS Programme will leave a lasting legacy in the region. Thanks to everyone for this valuable experience which allowed me to meet new people, exchange ideas and share memories.

Mr Mazama-Esso Gnalou

I have been a network analyst with the WAPIS Programme for nearly three years; I am on the verge of starting a new chapter in my life and my heart is filled with gratitude towards the Organization, the colleagues I was lucky enough to work with and, above all, to the DACORE teams in each country and their IT administrators which the initiative really relied on. During this professional experience, I learned valuable skills and met some great people. IT administrators played a key role in the success of the Programme thanks to their expertise and dedication, allowing WAPIS infrastructure to

be interconnected securely, resulting in smooth and reliable information exchange.

I would like to see the administrators take even greater ownership of the WAPIS Programme, by shaping it to meet the priorities and goals of each member country. Their long-term involvement is crucial if the Programme is to be sustainable over time in line with national guidelines.

I hope that each country will continue to provide budgetary support for their DACORE, in particular by ensuring the maintenance of existing equipment and investing in the development of remote sites according to local needs and objectives. This continued momentum would enable each member country to become a model of success and a source of inspiration for other nations.

I wish WAPIS and each and every one of you continued success.

Ms Charlotte Ahouty

In my capacity as a WAPIS Programme Country Officer since March 2021, I had the honour and pleasure of working with Côte d'Ivoire and Mauritania to get their DACORE - the nerve centre of WAPIS - up and running. I would like to sincerely thank the beneficiary countries who placed their faith in me and showed respect and appreciation throughout this experience.

This success is due to a friendly atmosphere and positive mindset in the team. The engagement, determination and organizational skills of all the stakeholders considerably facilitated our everyday work.

I am proud of the outcome and I would urge our states to consolidate and develop these achievements. As Robin Sharma puts it: "Change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end."

Mr Bob Elliott

As a WAPIS Programme Country Officer, I had the privilege of supporting the development of an ambitious project which changed the way special investigation units collect, share and analyse po-lice data. By digitalizing working processes in the agencies, we were able to boost operational efficiency, optimize time and resource management and lay the foundations for proactively tackling crime.

Our joint accomplishments extend beyond mere technical instruments. We have laid the founda-tions for solid cooperation governed by legal frameworks while allowing the countries to learn best practices and adapt them to their specific situation. It is this flexibility which will allow each nation to address the security challenges they face with pertinent solutions while pursuing regional col-laboration which is vital to tackle cross-border threats.

I am particularly excited that certain countries, such as Benin, Senegal and Togo, will be able to benefit from technical

support to develop their criminal intelligence analysis unit. This support will build their capacity to interpret the data collected, identify trends, anticipate crimes and plan for targeted intervention. Criminal analysis is not just a tool; it is a veritable strategic driver for preven-tion.

The WAPIS Programme is also a human enterprise with a close-knit community, driven by one and the same goal: to keep the citizens of West Africa safe. I am proud to have contributed to this movement and I am convinced that the results of this collective endeavour will leave a lasting mark on the region.

My thanks to all the colleagues, partners and participating countries for this extremely rewarding collaboration. Together we have proved that innovation, cooperation and a shared vision can make security a reality for our populations.



The WAPIS Programme team

CLOSING REMARKS: A JOINT SUCCESS

Dear readers,

An important chapter in the story of the WAPIS Programme has come to a close and it is worthwhile taking a moment to review our shared accomplishments in recent years. The progress achieved testifies to the unfailing engagement of the national and regional authorities in West Africa as well as to the constant support of technical and financial partners. Here is a brief overview of the main achievements:

1. A strong political commitment to secure ownership of WAPIS by the region:

- In the majority of West African countries, the national authorities have taken full ownership of the WAPIS Programme with manifest political support by heads of state and security ministers, who often chair the WAPIS National Committee which has members from among the police, the gendarmerie, the courts, customs, immigration and water and forestry services.
- ECOWAS Summits of Heads of State and Government formulated recommendations regarding the acceleration of WAPIS implementation on two occasions.
- Over the past five years, all the meetings of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council, security ministers and police chiefs systematically featured WAPIS on their agenda.

2. A legal structure and standardized police information systems:

- Virtually all the countries in the region have adopted a fully-fledged legal framework to guarantee the lawfulness and sustainability of their WAPIS system.
- The drafting of national laws and the creation of data protection commissions, the registration of WAPIS with these bodies, the appointment of a Data Protection Officer in the DACOREs, the dissemination of specialist guides and the delivery of dedicated training all contributed to greater awareness about data protection.
- Each national WAPIS system was adapted to the local criminal law framework.
- Stronger regional legal cooperation now exists, in particular thanks to the drafting of a Supplementary Act and Standard Operating Procedures for the WAPIS regional police information sharing platform by ECOWAS.

3. The ramp-up of police data management and sharing capacities:

- The WAPIS system, a complete police data management system, co-developed with the countries in the region is one of the major legacies of the Programme. It enables each country to digitalize, secure and efficiently exploit the information contained in police reports while simplifying management and sharing.
- Sixteen countries have started digitalizing hard copies of police archives.
- Fifteen countries have benefited from renovation of their DACORE, 14 have a fully operational DACORE and 14 have connected remote sites to their national WAPIS system.
- Fifteen countries now have a national network of trainers created by the Programme.
- More than 729,000 items of police data had been input in the WAPIS system at the start of 2025, demonstrating the extent to which the countries have taken tangible ownership of the system.
- Many successful use cases have been reported: identification of stolen vehicles, wanted persons, falsified documents etc.
- Fifteen countries have adopted a national budget line to ensure the system can continue operating after May 2025, including five who have already earmarked funds.
- Inter-agency cooperation was one of the crowning successes of the Programme as can be seen from the presence of representatives of different agencies in the DACOREs.

4. Enhanced integration in the global police information exchange architecture:

- The interconnection between WAPIS and the INTERPOL I-24/7 system enabled frontline officers to have direct access to global databases (stolen travel documents, vehicles, wanted persons, weapons etc.) from any WAPIS workstation.
- Fourteen countries are now connected to I-24/7 via WAPIS and some of them (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal) have started populating INTERPOL databases.

- At the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in Côte d'Ivoire, INTERPOL databases were queried 33,000 times thanks to WAPIS, proving the strategic value of the system for security at large-scale events.

These outcomes show the extent of progress and are laying firm foundations for the continuation of the Programme. This is not the end of a project, but the start of a new era during which the Member States will continue co-building a safe space based on cooperation, interoperability and information sovereignty.

With all our gratitude.



The WAPIS Programme team



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