



Ghana Coalition of NGOs in the
Water and Sanitation Sector

Role of the Mole Conference Series in Ghana's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
(WASH) Sector Development

Profile of Mole Series (1989-2013)

A Profile of Mole Series of Conference

*Compiled by CONIWAS Secretariat
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List of Acronyms

CONIWAS	Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation
CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
CWSD	Community Water and Sanitation Division
DAs	District Assemblies
DWSTs	District Water and Sanitation Teams
EHO/As	Environmental Health Officers/Assistants
ESAs	External Support Agencies
GOG	Government of Ghana
GWSC	Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Country
ISODEC	Integrated Social Development Centre
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoH	Ministry of Health
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
MWRWH	Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing
NALAG	National Association of Local Government
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSS	National Service Scheme
PNDC	Provision National Defence Council
PO	Partner Organisation
RCD	Resource Centre Development
RWSTs	Regional Water and Sanitation Teams
SBDU	Small Business Development Unit
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Health
WRC	Water Resource Commission
WRI	Water Resource Research Institute
WSMP	Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation

of files and documents series (1989-2013)

Dedication

This project is dedicated to the memories of all the departed souls who, in one way or the other were part of the *Mole Series* of Conference. It was their efforts which has brought the Series this far. Among them are:

Judith Evelyn Thompson

Dr. Amuzu

Jemima Yelbert

Beatrice Sekyi

Edwin Arthur

And many others whose names we cannot remember

Profile of Mole Series (1989-2013)

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Profile of Mole Series (1989-2013)

Section One

Background and Context

1. Background and Context

The Mole Conference Series has witnessed consistent growth of interest and importance since its inception in 1989 among civil society, policy makers, local government and development partners alike. The Mole Series, as it is known today, has evolved from what was primarily an NGO forum into perhaps the most important multi-stakeholder platform within the WASH Sector in Ghana. Over the years, the conference has attracted government actors, donors and other stakeholders (including local authorities) on an annual basis to deliberate on critical issues affecting the sector. As CONIWAS and key stakeholders prepare for the 25th edition of this conference, it has become imperative to reflect on how these annual stakeholder dialogues over the past 24 years have impacted on the WASH sector in Ghana.

1.2 Purpose of this Project

The purpose of this project is to profile the Mole Series and its contribution to the development of Ghana's WASH sector in terms of policy and practice.

1.3 Overview and Context of the WASH Sector

Generally, the Sector has seen much improvement since the inception of the Mole Series in 1989. The evolution of the sector has been accompanied by some notable changes and achievements including major reforms to address weaknesses. Some of these include changing from Works and Housing Ministry to the Ministry of Water Resources Works and Housing, the establishment of sector organizations including the Water Directorate within the MWRWH, the establishment of CWSA and the WRC, and more recently the Sanitation Directorate. These improvements and the development of required strategic investment documents have contributed to increased donor involvement and a marked improvement in coverage of WASH services. The MWRWH has provided leadership in the area of drinking water supply, kept to policy formulation,

and encouraged and supported the agencies under it to perform their roles. There are clear lines of responsibility and all subsector policies have been consolidated into the National Water Policy (NWP) and the National Environmental Sanitation Policy. The Environmental Health and Sanitation Division (EHSD) within the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD), recently upgraded to a Directorate, has taken on a leadership role for sanitation in Ghana. These notwithstanding considerable efforts are still required in the sanitation subsectors, not the least of which is to strengthen EHSD's capacity. Whilst the enabling environment has been largely created, developing and sustaining service delivery presently needs greater emphasis.

Within the context of the reform process, Ghana has developed a number of policies and strategies aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the Sector. In 2007, the National Water Policy (NWP) was launched and the thrust of the policy is to provide the framework for sustainable development and management of water resources to enhance livelihoods and improve health. The policy has element for good governance, gender, water quality, and provides linkages to other sectors like health, agriculture, sanitation and irrigation. Components of the policy cover such issues as water as both economic and social good, equity in relation to access especially by the poor and under- and non-served areas including peri-urban communities. Following from the NWP was the development of Sector Investment Plans by the subsector agencies – GWCL, CWSA and WRC. Ghana's 1999 National Environmental Sanitation Policy (NESP) was revised and adopted after 10 years in 2009. Like the NWP, this policy is also to provide framework for the coordination and implementation of environmental initiatives from the national to the community levels. The overarching goal of the Policy is to develop a clear and nationally accepted vision of environmental sanitation as an essential social service and a major determinant for improving

health and quality of life in Ghana. The NESP has implications for all sectors of the economy including health, environmental protection, improvement of human settlements and services, tourism, and general economic productivity.

The National/District Environmental Sanitation Strategic Action Plan (NESSAP/DESSAP) derived its mandate from the NESP. These tools articulate the roles of District Assemblies (DAs) and district sub-structures in accelerating the delivery of improved sanitation through provision of sanitation facilities. Each district is expected to a comprehensive plan which further provides framework for the implementation and coordination of sanitation activities in the district. It becomes a 'one-stop' shop for all stakeholders working in the district.

The Sector has also developed a Water and Sanitation Strategic Development Plan (WSSDP) and this document provides a framework for coordinated implementation of the vision, policy objectives, goals and targets of the water and water-related sanitation sector and sustainable delivery of WASH Services. The WSSDP is based on a vision for water resources and water and sanitation service delivery by the year 2025 and contains a detailed set of objectives and prioritized activities for the period 2011-2025. The strategy is informed by such key documents and plans as GWCL Strategic Investment Plan (urban water), CWSA Strategic Investment Plan (rural and small town water and sanitation), National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (NESSAP) the Strategic Environmental Sanitation Investment Plan (SESIP) and the Draft Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Strategic Plan (water resources management). Other key documents/strategies and plans are District Water and Sanitation Plans (DWSPs) and District Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plans (DESSAPs) respectively. The roles of key sector stakeholders were also outlined in the WSSDP. The WSSDP is also anchored on the policy objectives and proposed strategies in the Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda (GSGDA 2010-2013) and the National Water Policy at the national level. The plan also responds to Ghana's commitments to regional/global targets such as the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Ghana Compact, eThekweni

Declarations, among others, and the Code of Conduct toward operationalizing a Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) in the water and sanitation sector in Ghana. The WSSDP is, however, heavy on water issues than sanitation. Secondly, it provided a limited space sector NGOs/CSOs operation.

Another policy document which provides indication on government financing to the WASH Sector is the Ghana Sanitation and Water for All Compact (referred to as the **Ghana Compact**). This policy instrument is part of the international Sanitation and Water for All Compact: A Global Framework for Action (SWA) under which the Ghana government on the 10th of July 2010 committed itself at a High Level Meeting (HLM) in Washington DC to increase investment to the Sector. Through the Compact, Ghana Government committed to allocate not less than USD350 million every year beginning 2011 to the Sector. This Committed was renewed in 2012 when Ghana participated in the Second High Level Meeting. Ghana is part of the international community working to achieve the goals and targets set in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

According to figures from the Updated Progress Report on Drinking Water and Sanitation (2013) provided by the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) facilitated by WHO/UNICEF, 86% of Ghanaians have access to improved drinking water supply indicating Ghana has achieved the MDG target for water (78%). However, data from the Service Providers, in this case, Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL –urban water) and Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA - rural/small towns) differ markedly from those of the JMP. Reports from these two organisations indicate that the coverage for urban and rural sectors is averaging 64%. The differences in figures between the JMP and the Provider-based are basically an issue of methodology and definitions. There are clear differences between access, users and coverage and in so far as these differences exist, this challenge will still remain with the Sector.

Section Two

Mole Series, the History

Another challenge in the data capturing processes is whether these data especially those from service providers include that of WASH Sector NGOs, Faith Based Organisations, companies and such other entities as Ghana COCOBOD and Ministry of Agriculture who support communities with improved WASH Services. Besides this is also the phenomenon 'Self-servers' which refers to individuals who drill boreholes and hand dug wells in their homes. All these figures are not available to the Services Providers. However, JMP may have data on all these categories of users because the instruments for data gathering focus on "users".

Apart from the JMP figures for basic sanitation there is no credible data for sanitation as mechanisms for capturing data are non-existent. In general, data available revealed that Ghana demonstrates very low access to improved sanitation, with the JMP reporting coverage at 13% as in 2011, up from 10% in 2000 (percentage of people using improved and sustainable toilet – one that hygienically separates human faeces from human contact). Ghana will very likely miss the target for sanitation, given the predominant use of shared facilities (59%), which are considered unimproved according to definitions used by the JMP. By far the greatest challenge is in eliminating open defecation, which is as high as 18% nationally.

Given the differences in both JMP and Provider based figures and in view of the fact that there are figures which are not mainstreamed into the national data, the Sector should focus on harmonizing all the approaches for data gathering through the a well-established a national integrated framework for Monitoring and Evaluation. Besides, the country should not only focus on the targets, whether MDG or provider-set, but also on the numbers left after the targets has been achieved.

That is, the intention of the country should be on universal access rather than coverage. This would help deal with inter- and intra-regional and districts, rural and urban disparities as the statistics have indicated.

Generally, the poor situation with WASH services delivery continues to exert a heavy toll on the poor who typically spend up to 20% of their incomes on water fetching and use of sanitation facilities and still do not meet the basic needs for safe water and sanitation. UNICEF estimates that about 5100 children under 5 years old die each year from preventable water and sanitation related diseases. Throughout the country, malaria and other WASH related diseases continue to account for up to 70% of the OPD attendance in Ghana's public health institutions. The Water and Sanitation Programme of the World Bank estimated that inadequate sanitation services cost USD270 million annually in terms of health cost, productivity loss, time spent on accessing services, including locating a place to defecate openly

2.1 Introduction toto the Mole Conference Series

A review of the available documents on the history of the Mole Series does not provide information on specific objectives for the initial phase of the Conference. Nonetheless, the purpose was to have a discussion on rural water with emphasis on hand dug well as an alternative option. As the years passed by, however, the *Mole Series* were held around these broad objectives:

- *serve as a clearing house for information and intelligence generation and exchange on issues of programming, policy formulation and implementation process on water, sanitation and hygiene practices at local and national levels*
- *serve as a lobby for a greater NGO participation in national and international policy making at an early stage*
- *serve as a platform for engaging the media*
- *engage NGOs in dialogue with one another within and across the sector*

2.2 *Mole Series in History (How Did Mole Series Start?)*

“I remember very vividly driving through pouring rain in July 1989 in a Land Rover Pick-up driven by Ron Bannerman, Ella his secretary and I were venturing out into the game reserve in Mole in the Damango District. Ron was slightly apprehensive about what we were actually on our way to do – run a rural water conference and discuss hand dug wells as an option. That was a pretty daring thing to do then. Bring together people in

government, NGOs and the private sector and talk about rural and a pretty unpopular technology choice. But RON BANNERMAN, WaterAid Country Representative and PETER KPODUGBE, the Director of National Service, THE ARCHITECTS of the rural water conference are the sort of people that Mrs. Efua Sutherland, a lady we all love and renowned Ghanaian playwright would describe as: “PEOPLE WHO DARE TO DREAM”. By this Auntie Efua means that they and people like them are bold enough to think that people of all descriptions can live in a world which will be a better place than what we have at present and actually do something about making it a better place.”

The information above was culled from the “**Forward to Mole Series III**” written by the former Executive Director of ProNet, Late Judith Evelyn Thompson and it gives a clue as to how *Mole Series* started. However, the actual story is provided Peter Kpordogbe, a former Director of the National Service Scheme. According to Peter, the National Service Scheme established a unit called the Community Improvement Unit (CIU) with the responsibility to assist rural communities in their development

efforts. The ladies and gentlemen who worked in this Unit committed themselves to ensuring that the mission of the Unit is carried through. Consequently, the Unit established a number of development projects, one of which was a water project. The Unit acquired a drilling rig and embarked on supporting deprived communities to have access to potable water supply.

According to Mr. Kpordogbe, one of the lessons the Unit learnt as result of their work in the rural communities was uncoordinated nature of development in these communities. Another lesson was the fact that the traditional hand dug well technology, if improved could provide a cheaper alternative to the more expensive borehole. The Unit therefore proposed to the National Service Scheme to organise a conference with a focus on hand dug wells. At this time about 40,000 communities were without access to potable water supply and improved sanitation services.

At this same time, WaterAid, a British Charity, who has set up offices in Ghana, was interested in simple but effective technology which would deliver sustainable potable water supply to poor rural and marginalised communities. WaterAid and Integrated Social Development Center (ISODEC) came together as working partners with WaterAid providing financial and technical support to enable ISODEC work in the rural water sector. ISODEC had a linked to the National Service Scheme, especially Community Improvement Unit by the fact that the Executives of ISODEC were staff and part of set up of the CIU.

These interactions and arrangements provided the focus for the first Conference to happen. Thus, the CIU proposal for a national forum on alternative source of water came at the right time. National Service Scheme then linked-up with other stakeholders including External Support Agencies (ESAs – now Development Partners) and the government sector. Thus, the role of National Service Scheme in the *Mole Series* could not be overemphasized. Indeed, the Scheme funded the *1st Mole Series* and supported with Secretariat and Kitchen Staff. Whilst ISODEC was managing the *Mole II and III*, the Scheme continued to support to Conference. The management of the *Mole Series* from 1994 to until the birth of CONIWAS was managed by ProNet.

Following from the above, it could be concluded that the history of the Series cannot be understood without looking at the management and financing of the conference itself. The management has moved from the National Service Scheme through ISODEC, ProNet and now to CONIWAS. Financing the conference has also moved from a situation where there was a single source of funding – the National Service Scheme, and then joint funding from the Scheme and WaterAid to what can currently be termed as a ‘pool funding’ with multiple funders including fees generated from exhibitions and conference participants.

2.3 Contents of the Mole Series and its Contribution to the WASH Sector

Another aspect of the history of the *Series* is the Contents of the various Conferences. The contents were determined by the theme for each Conference. Thus, the appreciation of the *Series* cannot be completed without looking at what has happened in the past **twenty-three (23) years** in terms of what conference themes or topics, issues discussed and the outcomes of discussions in the form of Conference Communiqués. The implementation of the Communiqués issued has contributed to the development of the WASH Sector in various ways. Below are the themes and a summary of issues discussed in during the 23 years of the *Series* history

Past Mole Series, Themes, Issues Discussed and Recommendation

Mole Series No.	Theme	Summary of Issues Discussed
I	<i>Hand Dug Wells, Policy and Options (1989)</i>	It focused mainly on Rural Water Supply Technologies, its merits, applicability and choices. Hand Dug well was not a formerly considered option for rural water supply and the first <i>Mole</i> took it upon itself to deepen discussion and to facilitate its adoption as an option. Issues such as Institutional Framework and Standardisation , as contained in the GWSC Guidelines for the operation of NGOs, were also discussed. The training and use of local level artisans as private sector service providers/supplies was recommended. The first <i>Mole Series</i> took place in the Mole Game Reserve in Damango, Northern Region. The <i>Series</i> was therefore named after the Reserve after its maiden meeting
II	<i>Rural Water in the Context of Child Survival (1990)</i>	<p>Mole II discussed the effects of potable water on the survival of children. The stakeholders came “to look at how to coordinate their efforts better, how to make safe drinking water for all a reality, not a slogan.”</p> <p>The conference made a case that most of the infant killer diseases in rural Ghana are water and sanitation-related, It recommended for the development of strategies and mechanisms for solving water problems in rural areas. The Mole II recommended that women’s views should be taken into account when deciding on the type and location of facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting further stated that promotion of women’s participation should be a key component of any sector strategy. • A major principle agreed upon “water is simply not a technical interaction. It is inextricably linked with health education, community participation and sanitation”. • Standardization of hand pumps/hand dug wells was also recommended (GWSC/NGOs were suppose to organise conference in that regard) • The participation of DAs was in the Conference was highly recommended by Mole II.

		Mole II was held at Kokrobite Resort, near Accra.
<i>III</i>	<i>NGOs, the District and Water as an Entry Point (1991)</i>	Mole III coming as it were, after the Kokrobite Workshop organised in February, 1991 by the Ministry of Works and Housing/World Bank on the proposed National Rural Water and Sanitation Programme, provided a forum for the discussion of some of the issues expected to be in the programme. There was no list of recommendations but participants supported the government moves to decentralise planning and delivery of water systems. Like Mole I , the training of local level artisans to be involved in the programme was a key recommendations made at this meeting. It was further stated that this should be considered under the private sector component of the strategy.
<i>IV</i>	<i>Transition to Community Managed Water Systems - the Challenge to NGOs (1992)</i>	By the time of the 1992 Conference , it became apparent that the National Rural Water Strategy was sure to devolve its responsibility of management of the water facilities from the Government and GWSC to the communities. One significant thing about Mole IV was the fact that practitioners and researchers were together shaping policy. The significant role of NGOs in the delivery of strategy was recognised. The conference recommended that GWSC should move from the role of service provider to promoter . This was underscored by the fact that the private sector has the mandate for service provision. Discussions focused on the transition process, steps to the transition process, and roles of sector players during the transition, training, spare parts acquisition and maintenance processes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mole 1V endorsed the Transition to Community Management as a sustainable process and not a divestiture of responsibility. • The meeting agreed that Women have a vital role in the community management process. HOWEVER, the ROLE SHOULD NOT UNNECESSARILY BURDEN THEM • The meeting further identified that appropriate sanitation and health education is critical to the transition and that there should be a HOLISTIC VIEW OF SANITATION AND NOT EXCRETA DISPOSAL
<i>V</i>	<i>Training, Health and Wells - A Rural Water and Sanitation Sector Strategy (1994)</i>	At the Conference held in 1994 , it was clear that the results of the four previous Conferences had provided inputs into the formulation of the New National Community Water Strategy. Mole V thus reviewed all the recommendations made at the four previous Conferences, and established their relevance in the light of the newly adopted National Strategy. <p>At this meeting some of the details of the new sector strategy including the sector investment had begun to emerge. As the Conference theme implied, discussions centred on project-based experiences in the context of training, health education, latrines and water facility options and designs.</p>
		Mole VI , which went back to the Mole Game Reserve (1995) devoted attention to the issue of implementing the new sector programme and a review of the operational strategy. The focus of discussion was on the institutional arrangement for effective delivery of the strategy at the District Level – DWST and Partner Organisations. The Conference clarified the roles of the DWSTs and POs and how the DWSTs fit into the structure of the DA. The Roles of RWSTs, Small Business Development

<p style="text-align: center;">VI</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Partner Organisations and District Water and Sanitation Team: Main Players at District Level in Sector Strategy Implementation (1995)</i></p>	<p>Units were also discussed. The conference further discussed the conditions for the pre-qualification/selection of POs and SBDUs.</p> <p>The Conference also discussed some of the challenges emerging from the implementation of the new sector strategy. These included cumbersome contracting process, inadequate and untimely delivery of logistics to POs and DWSTs. Financing the newly established DWSTs and inadequate collaboration between the MLGRD and MWH were challenges which the conference identified and discussed.</p> <p>At this meeting, problems hampering the effective promotion and implementation of sanitation were discussed. Some of the Observations/Concern made included: Human Resource required to facilitate the implementation of the strategy as one the critical challenges; acknowledgement of the fact that poor communities could fall out of the bottom of the new sector strategy; ability of the DAs to generate enough revenue/income to enable them play their expected roles; No consensus on the functions of RWSTs and POs; Inadequate support to DWSTs; DAs do not have ownership to the sector strategy; Communities do not see the link between water, health and sanitation; Budget allocation to sanitation was meagre; and Cultural barriers hinder effective implementation of sanitation.</p> <p>Conference Resolutions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An enabling environment for the participation of the private sector; • Deepening the decentralisation process to facilitate the achievement of sector strategy • Explicit TOR for POs to enhance their activities • Active involvement of WATSAN committees is a requirement for sustainability • Need for team work between DWSTs, RWSTs, TNC, SBDUs and POs. • Women as a lynch-pin to community managed system • Increased budgetary allocation for sanitation through creation of sanitation fund • Inter-sectoral approach to dissemination/sharing of information <p>“Our People can no longer wait. Their water and sanitation needs and demands must be urgently met.”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">VII</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Promoting Sustainable Sanitation (1996)</i></p>	<p>The six previous <i>Series</i> were basically NGO affairs. However by Mole VII (1996) the CWSD of the GWSC had been fully established and they had now joined WaterAid to co-sponsor the Conference. Mole VII under the theme: Promoting Sustainable Sanitation - was entirely devoted to the discussion of the sanitation component of the CWSP. Indeed under the long running joint co-operative effort made under the Mole Series, this was the first time sanitation was given a place of its own. Some of the recommendations were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor sanitation can undermine all benefits of water projects • Sanitation provision should draw a balance between the provision of physical infrastructure and change in habits/attitude • Political commitment as a pre-requisite to successful sanitation programme • Provision of household latrines should not unnecessarily pollute ground water • Need for sanitation policy acceptable to all stakeholders • Research into cost effective design (local materials)/technology to reduce cost of facility • Need for CWSD to have a resource center to serve as a repository of sector information

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communal latrines should be considered for public institutions like schools. • Capacity assistance for latrine artisans • Emphasis on sustainable technologies for sanitation • Conversion of facilities to community management and ownership expected to be completed by 2000 with adequate legal backing • Establishment of spare parts depot and training of artisans to sustain the programme after conversion
VIII	<i>Team Building and the Profit Motive: A Sector Dilemma (1997)</i>	<p>Mole VIII was moved to Sogakope, Volta Region, for the first time in 1997, under the theme, “Team Building and the Profit Motive: A Sector Dilemma”. Stakeholders were re-defined and discussed and team building within the context of partnership. An issue that came to the forefront of the discussion was the profit motive among NGOs and a review of the contracting procedures at all levels. The background to this was the fact that NGOs felt they cannot work within the Contracting/procurement processes because it limits their ability deliver effective services. The contracting arrangement emphasized more on outputs rather than outcomes and impacts. Some of the key issues were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs should re-define their identity to reflect service to the society without profit motive • Collaborating and networking should be a sure way of ensuring optimum use of resources • Balancing the profit motive of the contractor with the interest of the funder and the provision of public or social service is essential
IX	<i>Streamlining Policy and Operations: Bringing Everyone on Board (1998)</i>	<p>Mole IX Conference went back to Sogakope to discuss how to Streamline Policy and Operations, in view of our common vision, variety of experiences and innovative ideas. Mole IX provided detail recommendations from the point of Donors, Capacity Building, Information Management, Dissemination, District Assembly, NGOs, Private Sector, and Technology. Mole IX recommendations also categorised the recommendations based on timeframe. There were issues which were thought to be very urgent and needed immediate attention. The meeting also constituted a three-member committee to present and hold discussions with institutions and organisations which have mandate to act on the various recommendations. Some of the recommendations were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWSA (was CWSD) should have a representation on all bilateral negotiations on sector investments; • Donor compliance with the sector strategy, capacity building for sector stakeholders; • MOU between MLGRD & Works and Housing; Development of Districts WATSAN Plans, broadening the participation to include contractors, NDPC, WATSAN Committees, WRC, MOH, Traditional Authorities; Participation of Mole/NGO Representatives at CWSD Annual and Mid-Year Review; • Formation of Private Sector Group; • Poor communities inability to contribute 5% capital cost and 100% operational cost of facilities, capturing WATSAN budget as part of DA’s overall budget; • NGO collaboration with the state and private sector; formation NGO networks
		<p>At Novotel Hotel, Accra, we gathered once again as the Mole family for our tenth (10th) Annual Conference, Mole X. It was time to acknowledge the presence and contributions not only of the many dignitaries, but also all “family members”, particularly participants at more than one Conference.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>X</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mole into the Next Millennium (1999)</i></p>	<p>Awards were given to deserving stakeholders. Mole X recommendations reflected on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector capacity building especially at the DA Level; DAs and other stakeholders should also benefit from the Sector’s capacity building fund • Gender issues at organisational/institutional levels; • DAs should have the responsibility for procurement and contracting • impact assessment and monitoring of ground water • strengthening NGOs and DA Relationship; • Effective integration of Hygiene and User Education; • Social Marketing Approach for Sanitation. <p>At this meeting the Committee set to present Mole IX recommendations to enable the various stakeholders implement them gave their report. A new committee was formed with a similar mandate. This was against the backdrop of the fact previous recommendations were not implemented.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>XI</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Beyond the Second World Water Forum (2000)</i></p>	<p>Mole XI, which again took place at Villa Cisneros, Sogakope brought stakeholders together to focus on issues that, as it were, will propel participants to look “Beyond the Second World Water Forum” held in May 2000. WaterAid sponsored a number of local NGOs in the ‘Mole family’ to attend this conference and together with the international CSOs advocate for more resources for water and sanitation sector as a means of reducing poverty and the development of Global Vision for WSS. The members also made presentation on the Mole platform in Ghana. Information from the conference helped the platform to strategise for 2000 and beyond. It was time for carving a new direction for the Series</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>XII</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Looking Back at the Community Water and Sanitation Programme: The NGO Factor (2001)</i></p>	<p>Mole XII also took place at Villa Cisneros, Sogakope in 3rd to 7th June 2001. The Mole XII reviewed the performance of the Community Water and Sanitation Programme in terms of NGOs participation and contribution to the water and sanitation related targets. The conference also offered stakeholders in the sector the opportunity to go beyond a review of past achievements and challenges of the National Community Water and Sanitation Programme towards delivery of clear, forward looking strategies and concrete actions for implementation. A twelve-point Communiqué issued covered the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO Coalition and Networking for Sector NGOs • Inter-agency/sectoral collaboration (VIP, SIF, Micro Projects were implementing water and sanitation interventions with minimal input from MWH/CWSA and outside the framework of sector strategy) • Hand Pumps – the strategy permitted 4 types of hand pumps. The call was for CWSA to expand the options and remove taxes on pumps imported by NGOs (10% import duty and 12% VAT). The meeting called for a Technical forum on Hand pumps. • 5% Capital cost UPFRONT contribution undermines access by poor and marginalised • Sustainable water supply options in view of decreasing ground water tables (Alternative sources – rain water catchment, surface reservoir with simplified treatment, Ground water recharging, and river in-take systems). Introduction of watershed management into project delivery was recommended

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Ghana's WSS Vision 2025 (This comes on the wings of Global, Africa and West Africa Visions which Ghana helped in the development) • Sanitation Promotion (11% coverage) (enforcing by-laws on latrines in every residential facilities; Part of the 20% fund for sanitation should be used for latrine promotion instead of all for refuse management. • Sanitation – Technological options – document and share available options; public health and engineering standards should guide designs; social marketing strategy for promoting latrines • Water Quality testing and monitoring should be mandatory for the sector • Capacity strengthening for sector players. Capacity building component of the programme should be used for the benefit of all stakeholders • Integrating environmental concerns into community water supply, hygiene and sanitation • Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS into water and sanitation programmes
<i>XIII</i>	<i>Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation: Our Hope Sustainable Delivery of Water and Sanitation in Ghana (2002)</i>	<p>Mole XIII marks important milestone in the life of Civil Society Organisations in the sector. There was a shift from the public sector institutions and policy issues to the role played by NGOs since early 90s. One of the outcomes of this conference was the need for NGOs to come together so as to influence policy in favour of the poor and deprived. A committee was constituted to work on the processes that would lead to the formation of an NGO network.</p>
<i>XIV</i>	<i>Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation: Consolidating Our Partnership (2003)</i>	<p>The 14th Mole was mainly a response to the recommendation made at Mole XIII. The Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) was born. The constitution was adopted and elections were made. The new executives were sworn into office for two-year tenure.</p> <p>At this meeting the Water and Sanitation Sector MDGs were unveiled to the stakeholders by the World Bank</p>
<i>XV</i>	<i>Effective Partnership towards Achieving Water Sector Millennium Development Goals (2004)</i>	<p>The international community recognised that the problem of water supply and sanitation is well beyond individual nations and organisations and there is need for concerted effort at all levels toward finding solutions to the problem. Consequently, Mole XIV focused discussion on MGD 8 and how various partnership arrangements – government, NGOs and the private sector- all levels could be used to enhance the achievements of the targets under Goal 7th. The highlights of the Conference Communiqué were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to prioritisation of WATSAN, MDG gap financing; • community capital cost contribution; • framework and partnership model for sector MDGs, Research, information sharing and learning, Balance between water and sanitation; • water-related diseases, accountability relationship and sustaining water resources and water and sanitation facilities
		Monitoring, measuring and counting of water supply and sanitation facilities towards achieving the

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>XVI</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Counting the Numbers: a Water and Sanitation Sector MDG Challenge (2005)</i></p>	<p>MDGs is fraught with several challenges. These included the definitions of terminologies (<i>access</i>), double counting and different reporting mechanisms and systems. <i>Mole XVI</i> was devoted to discussing these challenges with the aim of developing/adopting a unifying framework for monitoring, measuring and counting the facilities. The eleven points communiqué issued focused on the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive National M&E System; Institutional Arrangement for Data Collection: • Achieving Accountability in Service Delivery • Aiming for Sustainability of WASH Services • Integrated Water Resource Management • <i>Accelerating and Deepening Decentralisation through collaboration with NALAG, Lobby for support for EHUs and DWSTs</i> • <i>Accelerating Guinea-worm Eradication</i> • Streamlining & Harmonising Sector NGOs Approaches; Taking Knowledge Management Further; • Creating Space for Networks and Autonomy for Water Boards and Committees; and, • Attaining MDGs on Gender Equity
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>XVII</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Challenges to Delivery of Water and Sanitation Services for the Poor (2006)</i></p>	<p>The water and sanitation sector has over the years increased the provision of water and services to the populace. However, there were ample evidences to show that the ‘poor’ faces challenges in accessing the service. <i>Mole XVII</i> therefore tried to address some of the challenges blocking the poor from accessing water and sanitation services. Some of the decision points were National Re-orientation on 5% capital cost contribution, accelerating guinea worm eradication, ensuring efficient utilisation of water board fund, and increased government funding to the sector</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>XVIII</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bridging the Sanitation Gap to Reach the MDGs (2007)</i></p>	<p>Sanitation services have always lagged behind the provision of water supply facilities. In fact sanitation has been considered “a step-child to the provision of water supply”. <i>Mole XVIII</i> therefore deliberated on how to bridge the gap between the provision of sanitation facilities and water supply. Some of the components of the conference communiqué were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritisation of sanitation at national level backed by corresponding resource allocation (sanitation fund) • An inclusive policy review to better focus sanitation actions to improve access • Inter-sectoral mechanism for policy implementation and monitoring • Empowering EHA/Os in terms funding, skill upgrading to enable them step up extension services • Enforcement of sanitation laws through sanitation courts • Adoption of affordable technologies and open options for communities • Advocacy for behaviour change by all stakeholders required • Review curriculum of Schools of Hygiene to incorporate current trends/concepts and development in sanitation policy and practice • Consistent monitoring, reporting and publishing of fresh and drinking water quality status throughout the country. • Intensification of non-state actors involvement brings value to sanitation delivery. This needs to be supported with funding

<p>XIX</p>	<p><i>Reaching the MDGs for Sanitation: Options to Expand and Accelerate Coverage (2008)</i></p>	<p><i>Mole XIX</i> continued where <i>Mole XVIII</i> left off by looking at the different options available to expand and accelerate the coverage of sanitation so that the gaps identified in could be bridged. <i>Mole XIX</i> came at the heels of the <i>International Year of Sanitation</i> declared by the United Nations in 2008. The goal is to raise awareness and to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7 target 10, to reduce by half the proportion of the 2.6 billion people without access to basic sanitation by 2015. The forum among other things issued the following as the communiqué. That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government of Ghana should declare sanitation a national emergency and lead and support implementation with funds. • The sector ministry should set up a task force, as a matter of urgency, to thoroughly discuss and come out with conclusions on the issue of harmonizing definitions and approaches for data collection on sanitation. • The government of Ghana should take courageous steps at banning the use of polythene bags and encourage the use of paper bags, baskets and other degradable alternatives in the country. • Government should live up to its international commitments to sanitation. • Mutual Health Insurance Schemes should liaise with the District Environmental Health Officers to incorporate awareness creation on sanitation in their education programmes. • All stakeholders should support SHEP as well as interventions for out of school children to enhance sanitation awareness among young people. • As part of the International Year of Sanitation, CONIWAS should as a matter of urgency organize sanitation fora for presidential aspirants. • The sector should continue to explore the Community-led Total Sanitation approach to latrine promotion as a viable option for sanitation improvement. • Capacity building for Environmental Health and Sanitation staff at the Schools of Hygiene and other relevant institutions should be strengthened to promote the behaviour change agenda. • Government, development partners and other key players in the sector should facilitate and provide concessionary loans and micro credit schemes in addition to subsidies to enable more households to own toilets. • There should be increased efforts at mainstreaming equity, inclusion and gender issues in sanitation delivery services at all levels and at all times. • There should be increased collaboration and involvement of traditional authorities and religious leaders in communicating sanitation issues and enforcing regulations and bye laws.
		<p><i>Mole Series</i> was 20 years in 2009 and the Conference at this moment in time had several focus. These included the contribution of the conference to the WASH Sector: Perspectives of the Role of Civil Society in the Sector, WASH Sector Coordination, and Data Harmonisation from the perspectives of MWRWH and DPs, Country Status Overview of the MDGs and Honouring International Commitments.</p> <p>The rest were on knowledge management, gender issues in WASH, Commitment to Sanitation and hygiene services and delivery of services to poor urban communities and peri-urban areas. Water</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">XX</p>	<p><i>Twenty Years of Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue in Ghana: The State of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)</i></p>	<p>Resources Management, trans-boundary water resources management and climate change among others were also discussed at this meeting. There were a representation from the African Civil Society Network on Water (ANEW) and Ethiopia. The end of this meeting, the forum agreed and issued a point communiqué covering the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Commitment of Development Partners and CSOs to Move Mole Series;</i> b. <i>Consolidate Gains made through Sector coordination whilst collectively work towards improving compliance with and respect for sector policies, regulations and standards;</i> c. <i>Tracking the achievement of water and sanitation: Country Status Overviews</i> d. <i>Improving efficiency of water use through legislation and education</i> e. <i>Improving Government Commitments toward International Obligations;</i> f. <i>MLGRD facilitates the speedy establishment of District Works Department to enhance the Management of small town water supply facilities</i> <p>The Conference further noted with concern challenges faced by Water Boards and therefore recommended the government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide a special rate of tariffs for power used in the operations of small town water systems;</i> • <i>Pay utility bills promptly, failing which Water Boards shall have authority to disconnect service to defaulting institutions, with the exception of essential facilities such as hospitals and schools;</i> • <i>Reduce undue interference in the operations of small towns water systems through the enforcement of the bye-laws governing the establishment of Water Boards</i> • <i>Develop effective capacity for sector knowledge management;</i> • <i>Ghana Water Company Ltd (GWCL) and Aqua Viten Rand Ltd (AVRL) to ensure customer satisfaction by making services reliable, affordable, and of good quality and;</i> • <i>A call upon government and development partners, as well as non-traditional actors, to increase investments in the urban water sub-sector so as to meet the needs of the poor and un-served communities.</i> <p>24 Participants were awarded during this forum. The conference took place at Hotel Chances in Ho.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">XXI</p>	<p><i>The Global Climate Change: A Challenge to the WASH Sector in Ghana</i></p>	<p>Historically, the Mole Conference has often focused on issues relating to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. The Conference for the first in its 21 years put greater emphasis on water as a resource and then built linkages with the other services. The objectives of the conference were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase understanding of all stakeholders in the WASH Sector on the subject of climate change • Make a linkage between the global picture of climate change and its local impacts at the national and community levels. • Improve collaboration and improved dialogue between the various sub-sectors within the WASH sector on the subject of climate change. • Share knowledge on the key challenges that affect the sector and embark on an energized campaign to raise the profile of the Sector among politicians. <p>To this end, the Water Resources Commission (WRC) played a major role, whilst the GWCL/AVRL,</p>

	<p>CWSA and the Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development provided different perspectives to the subject. Mole XXI sought to find answers to the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does Climate Change as a global phenomenon manifest impact locally? • To what extent are commonly cited trends such as droughts, floods and lowering of groundwater table attributable to climate change? Are these a part of natural cycles of nature that go and come, or permanent changes that require special effort to reverse? • To what extent will hand dug wells and surface dug outs continue to be considered sustainable sources of water supply to rural communities and towns respectively? • What are the priority actions for stakeholders in the WASH sector to consider? <p>The Conference at the issue the following Communiqués:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be intensified awareness creation campaigns to bring to the general • populace, including children, the opportunities, dangers and challenges of climate change and the need for behavioural and attitudinal changes. • Government and civil society should actively promote rainwater harvesting as • one of the practical adaptation options in the water supply, agriculture and • construction industries, among others. This can support in minimizing overreliance on ground and surface water resources. • Government and civil society should incorporate and implement climate change • adaptation strategies and action plans in various policies, strategies and projects to insulate Ghana from the threats of climate change • Government should demonstrate more commitment both locally and internationally to the Sharm El-Sheikh declaration made by the Heads of State and Government on Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa especially the commitment to the Africa Water Vision 2025; the Sirte Declaration on Agriculture and Water in Africa; the Declaration on Climate Change in Africa; and the Millennium Development Goal on Water Supply and Sanitation. • Government should ensure that a comprehensive national disaster management strategy with adequate funding be put in place, with an effective emergency response system, to ensure citizens are not overtaken by extreme events due to climate change, particularly in areas concerning water safety and sanitation. • Civil Society Organisations should include education on Climate Change in their activities to improve the knowledge and to change attitudes and practices that go to exacerbate the effects of climate change. Mitigation and adaptation measures pertaining to Climate Change should be disseminated, in addition to applying indigenous ways of dealing with Climate Change. <p>The Venue for Mole XXI was Erata Hotel, East Legon, Accra</p>
	<p>This year's conference was significant in two dimensions; it is the first time in 22 years that the <i>Mole Series</i> has been held in the Western Region and secondly, at the time that commercial quantities of oil</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">XXII</p>	<p><i>Towards Decentralized WASH Services Delivery: Challenges and Lessons”</i></p>	<p>have been found in this Region. The theme and sub-themes of the Conference were therefore appropriate for the environment within which it was held.</p> <p>Presentations and discussions centered on five main thematic areas which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Governance, Accountability and Aid/Development Effectiveness in the WASH sector;</i> • <i>Dealing with long term financing for small town systems;</i> • <i>Oil, Gas, Mining and its implications in the WASH sector;</i> • <i>Scaling up Sanitation and Hygiene.</i> • <i>Innovations and New Initiatives in the WASH Sector</i> <p>In conclusion, Mole XXII came up with the following recommendations among several others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The oil, gas and mining industry possess tremendous economic benefits to the country. However, their negative effects on water resources and other water infrastructure, especially in areas where they are explored are overwhelming. In this regard, the conference called for review of some of the mining laws to minimize their impacts on water and other resources and also do better environmental impact assessments. The conference proposed the setting up of a team of experts to constantly engage government and parliament on WASH sector financing. • Since water and sanitation have been declared part of essential services, the sector should be listed among the top four priority areas for investments from the oil revenue as a source of sustainable funding for the sector. Part of these allocations from the oil revenue could be used to support District Assemblies to in turn support communities manage WASH services to promote sustainability. • With proof of Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) as a potential to propel Ghana to attain its MDG target on sanitation faster, there should be conscious efforts by MMDAs to incorporate CLTS as well as District CLTS Implementation Roadmaps in their various District Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plans (DESSAPs) as a matter of urgency. • A systematic process of gathering information on NGO/CSO contribution to the WASH Sector, including facility delivery, innovations and financing should be put in place and periodically collated and made available for capture in the Annual Sector Performance Report. • Current efforts at establishing sector information systems should take into consideration the inadequate information and data on what happens at the decentralized level, which sets new challenges for addressing corruption and improving transparency and accountability in the WASH sector. • Direct support cost and capital maintenance expenditure are essential elements for sustainable small town water supply delivery. Led by the Government with effective support from all partners, a mechanism should be established for direct support for Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to manage small town systems beyond the project phase. • To respect individuals’ right to safe drinking water, any institution providing drinking water is required to ensure that Ghana’s water safety standards are met. In this respect, efforts should be made for an innovative and sustainable funding mechanism for CWSA’s Water Safety Framework. <p>Mole XXII took place at Busua Beach Resort, Agona-Ahanta, Near Takoradi</p>
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<p><i>XXIII</i></p>	<p>Financing WASH Sector: Past, Current and Vision for the Future</p>	<p>Availability of timely and adequate financial resources provides lifeblood for the success and survival of not only businesses, but many other life endeavors. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector in Ghana suffer from chronic under funding resulting in the poor sanitation situation in the country. Opening the 2012 Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting(SWA/HLM) on 21st April 2012 in Washington DC, the Chairman of the HLM said “the dream of universal access to sanitation and water is within our reach, but a tremendous increased in political will, adequate resources and coordinated efforts is required to get us there”. This statement underscores the crucial need for adequate financing of the WASH sector, hence, the relevance of Mole XXIII Conference theme</p> <p>Financing WASH Sector: Past, Current and Vision for the Future</p> <p>The theme was further structured into 4 main sub-themes to focus discussions on critical aspects of sector financing. These included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public financing of WASH services delivery: exploring options; 2. Capital maintenance financing practices and innovative option options for the future; 3. Policies, standards and regulations for WASH services; 4. Public-Private Partnership in WASH delivery. <p>Some of the recommendations made at Mole XXIII were;</p> <p>The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning should ensure the timely release of budget allocation to WASH Sector Ministries and allied agencies to enable them implement planned activities on schedule to meet the MDGs, especially on sanitation; establishment of an inter-ministerial committee on water and sanitation comprising the Ministries of Water Resources Works and Housing, Local Government and Rural Development and Finance and Economic Planning to facilitate transparent and coordinated resource allocation; the establishment of a national WASH fund that will pool resources from the replacement accounts of Small Town Water and Sanitation Management Teams and other sources; and elevation of CWSA from Agency to Authority, with greater financial oversight responsibility over rural water operations.</p> <p>The rest were ensuring fiscal decentralization and strengthening of decentralised structures; government exploring Private sector financing as an additional option or source of financing local development plans for WASH with a focus on supporting pro-poor, inclusive and equitable service provision; effective plans for sanitation in the short and long term with the necessary financing to support communities move up the sanitation ladder including social marketing and other options that optimise good health; mainstreaming citizen engagement processes to respond to rights/entitlement, relevant laws and policies towards deepening ownership and participation to improve governance and sustainable WASH Services, deliberate inclusion of pragmatic programmes and projects in WASH under SADA; adoption of comprehensive and collaborative approach to sector capacity building to enhance Sector performance; and extensive dissemination of the CWSA LIs among sector players.</p>
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<p><i>Mole XXIV</i></p>	<p>Building Effective Partnership for Scaling-up Sustainable Sanitation Services</p>	<p>The current challenges in the sanitation and hygiene subsectors require comprehensive and collaborative approaches to provide innovative mechanisms to meet these challenges. It requires identification of what is working and supporting national scaling up of some of these successful innovations. That was the focus of Mole XXIV. The aim of the Conference was to showcase successful and innovative sanitation approaches – technologies/processes and financing mechanisms- and discuss barriers blocking the scaling up of these innovations. Mole XXIV therefore created space for sector players, especially the ‘small private sector entities’ and NGOs to demonstrate to the Sector their projects, challenges and what they would require to up-scale their services. The specific objectives of Mole XXIV conference were to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Explore options and opportunities for sustainable sanitation delivery in Ghana ii. Examine public-partnership models for accelerated sanitation delivery iii. Ascertain relevance of operation, maintenance, and user fees as financing options improved sanitation delivery iv. Share knowledge and expertise on sanitation delivery v. Provide recommendations for policy advocacy and influencing <p>The main thematic areas were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public-Private Partnership for Scaling-Up Sustainable Sanitation Delivery • The Role of MMDAs in Sanitation Service Delivery • Community's Perspective in solving Sanitation Challenges: Opportunities and Realities • Sanitation and health linkages: A way out of Ghana's Sanitation Challenges <p>About 120 persons attended the Conference which took place at Noda Hotel, Kumasi from Date: 13-16th August, 2013. The breakdown are Media Houses (9); NGOs - National/International (30); Development Partners (4); University/Research Institution (9); Private Sector (14); CBOs/WATSANs (10); MMDAs/MDAs (14), Traditional Authority (2). 83 of the participants were male with 37 being female. In all 30 Papers were presented with 8 Panel Discussions.</p> <p>At the end of the Conference a 12-point Communiqué was issued for consideration by key Sector stakeholders. These included call on Government to effectively partner academia, development partners and private sector to operationalize SESIP as well as scale-up successful pilots on sanitation; CONIWAS and other Civil Society Organizations in collaboration with government should establish and monitor sanitation sub-sector specific transparency and accountability standards; Government through Ministry of Local Government should improve transparency and accountability in sanitation and waste management; CSO organizations should collaborate with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) to ensure full scale implementation of <i>Polluter Pays Principle on sanitation</i> through legislation; MMDAs to strictly enforce legislations, regulations and bye-laws on environmental sanitation while CSOs should continue policy dialogues with stakeholders on effective implementation of bye-laws; MMDAs should collaborate with private sector agencies, rural banks and micro-finance</p>
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		<p>institutions to support credit for household latrines; Ministry of Local Government and MMDAs should collaborate with private sector to promote and create value addition to sanitation and solid waste management to create employment.</p> <p>The rest were MMDAs should harness the influencing role of Chiefs, Queen mothers, community leaders and traditional authority for effective, intensive community level education, sensitization and management of sanitation delivery; NGOs/CSOs in collaboration with Ministry of Local Government to develop best ODF villages into training/learning centers and promote the upscale for other villages /community-led initiatives in sustainable sanitation services; CSOs/NGOs, should collaborate with MMDAs to intensify the implementation of comprehensive behavior change communication action plans to improve behaviors and attitudes of individuals and communities; Ministry of Local Government to utilize the platform of the Inter Ministerial Coordinating Committee (IMCC) to address weak collaboration and coordination among key sector MDAs and other allied institutions to ensure WASH and Health sector linkages; and CSOs, development partners and private sector should work with government to accelerate the implementation of sanitation policies and strategies to accelerate improved sanitation delivery, recognizing the necessary links between sanitation, hygiene and health</p>
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Profile of Mole Series (1989-2013)

Section Three

Contributions of Mole Series to the WASH Sector

Phase 1

3.1 Contributions of the Mole Series to the WASH Sector

There is no gain saying that the *Series* has since its birth in 1989 has become an annual affair where priorities of the Sector are discussed amongst Sector stakeholders. As the *Mole Conference* celebrates its **twenty-fourth anniversary**, there are some notable contributions that it could be accredited with. These contributions could be best understood in the context of outcomes of Conference deliberations and Communiqués. In all Seven (7) areas of contributions could be identified:

1. *Influencing Sector Strategy/Policy*
2. *Networking and Capacity Building of WASH Sector NGOs*
3. *Facilitating NGOs' Participation in Sector Reform Processes*
4. *Facilitation of Learning and Knowledge Sharing*
5. *Highlighted the Neglected Status of Sanitation*
6. *Fostering partnerships and enhancing coordination towards achieving sector targets*
7. *Influencing allocation of adequate resources and efficient utilization of the same to meet sector investments and operations*

The information provided by the past Mole Reports, the summary which is provided in the above table is enough evidence of the contribution of the *Series* to the WASH Sector in Ghana. To facilitate a better understanding of the relationship of the contributions of the *Series* vis-a-vis Sector Strategy and Policies, the evidence is structured into five (5) phases and each of these phases corresponds to the development of WASH Sector. The Phases are as follows:

Phase 1 Pre-Strategy Development Mole I-IV (1989 – 1992)

Phase 2 Strategy Implementation Mole V-X (1994 – 1999)

Phase 3 The NGO Agenda Mole XI-XIV (2000 – 2003)

Phase 4 The MDGs/Sanitation Agenda Mole XV-XIX (2004 – 2008)

Phase 5 The Mixed Agenda Mole XX – XXIII (2008 – 2012)

Pre-Strategy Phase Mole I –IV (1989 – 1992)

This phase in the history *Mole* and the Sector in general was characterised by lack of coordination of sector activities. Different organisations were doing their 'own things' in different parts of the country. Though the Rural Water Supply Division was an outfit of GWSC, it did not have the required capacity to coordinate sector activities. There were no standards for technologies and designs. Community's participation in decision-making process and choice of technologies were limited. Funding to the sector was very limited as compared to what went into the urban water systems. Sanitation and hygiene promotion were not considered an integral part of water supply provision. Maintenance systems where existed were highly centralised and provided by the central government through GWSC Drilling and Maintenance Unit

Right at the time that **Mole I** was taken place, the Government of Ghana had also realized the need to re-organize the sector and this is supported by the following stated culled from **Mole III** Report:

"In 1989, the PNDC government realized GWSC was biased towards urban rehabilitation. External Support Agencies (ESAs) were prepared to give more money to rural water but they needed a clear framework to work through. A Ministry of Works and Housing/World Bank Conference.....tackled the re-organisation of GWSC. It recommended that GWSC be decentralized and private sector involvement encouraged. GWSC should plan and package contracts for rural water and sanitation in conjunction with the District. Community ownership and management should be promoted."

Mole I was therefore calling for a policy/strategy direction for the sector at the same time the Government had realized the need to do so. This could not be said to be coincidental especially when at the end of **Mole I** a number of working groups/committees were set up to work on the recommendations. For instance, a Committee met GWSC to work on funding for aerial mapping towards identifying and documenting all water supply facilities. GWSC, NGOs and the private

sector worked on the minimum charges for boreholes and hand pump maintenance and hand dug wells. Other meetings were held on standardization of boreholes and spare parts (at that time 12 different types of pumps were in the system and these were limited to 4 in the first new sector programme); research and development (Water Resource Research Institute – WRII was the lead agency) and community development (Department of Community Development) was the lead agency for issues relating to community mobilisation and participation

The different committees reported back their activities as part of **Mole II**. **Mole II** built on **Mole I** recommendations by emphasizing on women participation, integration of water, sanitation, health education and community participation. **Mole II** also recommended for the participation of DAs in future *Series*. It had further recommended for a workshop between government and NGOs to work and agreed on standardization of facilities including the hand dug wells. One outcome of such interaction is the adoption of what was termed the “Engineered Hand Dug Well” which later formed part of the national strategy.

Coming after the ‘Kokrobite Declaration’ (the declaration provided the framework for the national rural water strategy), **Mole III** and **IV** were designed to discuss in detail some of the component of the strategy framework. Participants at **Mole III** supported the devolution of planning and delivery of rural water supply to the District. Private sector (artisans) participation in strategy was advocated. The conference recommended that **GWSC should move from the role of service provider to promoter**. This was underscored by the fact that the private sector has the mandate for service provision. Other areas of discussions were the transition processes, roles of sector players during the transition, training, spare parts acquisition and maintenance processes. By the end of **Mole IV**, the new sector strategy had taken shape and most of the recommendations from **Mole Series I-IV** had been taken on board the new national rural water strategy.

Influencing Sector Strategy/Policy

The **Mole Conference** has since its inception been a central forum for pursuance of an advocacy effort aimed at changing government policy towards key sector issues such as the adoption of hand-dug wells as viable sources for potable water delivery in Ghana. It was at the first conference where the issue of Standardization of facilities was raised.

The **Mole Series** has also been an important venue for debating the issue of 5% community contributions. This effort ultimately led to the removal or downward revision of the 5% contribution, which will in turn facilitate the accelerated delivery of water services to the rural poor.

The conference provided a platform for NGOs and other stakeholders to make input into the design and implementation of National Community Water and Sanitation Programme (NCWSP – 1994-1998). The first programme was in a way modeled on how some NGOs in the sector operated.

Networking and Capacity Building of WASH Sector NGOs:

The **Mole Series** has played a major role in facilitation of networking and capacity building of sector NGOs and in the establishment of CONIWAS as the umbrella body for the network of WASH Sector NGOs. Steps towards the formulation of CONIWAS started at the **Mole XIII Conference** in June 2002, a consensus was reached on the need for NGOs in Ghana to go beyond their individual physical projects and to get actively involved in advocacy and policy dialogue on critical sectoral issues. The formation of an NGO coalition/network was therefore proposed at the conference. In October 2002, an elected planning committee representing the national and international NGOs in Ghana started the preparatory work that ultimately led to the establishment of a formalized Coalition of NGOs (CONIWAS) in mid-2003.

Through the conference, individuals and organizational levels of networking have been established. **The Mole Series** has contributed to building/strengthening the capacity of its members in several ways. The forum itself has provided the platform for sharing and learning through interaction at group sessions, and plenary presentations.

Facilitation of NGO Participation in Sector Reform Process

Before the formation of CONIWAS, the **Mole Conferences** played a key role in facilitating NGO participation in the Water Sector Reform. The **Mole Series** played a significant role in the debate that led to the formation of Community Water and Sanitation Division (CWSD), which subsequently evolved into the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) in 1998. A review of the Conference reports actually provides not only a timeline but also the processes and engagements that facilitated the development of the sector strategy.

NGOs/CSOs in their early participation adopted what was termed 'a confrontational' approach to get their views heard by the government. With time and as state and the non-state sector began to understand each other, this approach has moved to consensus building.

Highlighted the Neglected Status of Sanitation:

The ***Mole Conferences*** held in 1995 and 1996 had both advocated for profiling sanitation services higher on the agenda on the WASH Sector Platform. This was further re-enforced in 2007 and 2008 were both centred on the theme of Sanitation. A press conference organized to disseminate the communiqué of the 2008 generated a high level of dialogue at the national level. The increased awareness on sanitation also triggered other key interventions such as the first Presidential Debate on sanitation in 2008 and similar one on 2012, though not as comprehensive as was the former. The conference has thus played a major role in raising the profile of sanitation and in leading the effort to establish sanitation as a major development and political issue.

Facilitation of Learning and Knowledge Sharing

Mole Conferences organized in 1995, 1996 and 1998 have advocated a for comprehensive and strategic approach to managing sector knowledge and learning processes. Format for ***Mole Conference*** has increasingly shifted onto the sharing of state-of-the art knowledge on topical issues such as sector monitoring, coordination, sanitation services delivery, knowledge management. The planning of ***Mole Series*** has increasingly focused on learning and knowledge sharing. In recent years, organisation of the conference has routinely involved background studies aimed at developing a thematic paper to guide conference deliberations. The launching of the "Afram Skuul" of Innovation" was the fruition of ideas that emanated from the ***Mole Series*** and is aimed at further strengthening the profile of the ***Mole Series*** as a platform for knowledge management. It is interesting to note the National Learning Alliance Platform as a facilitating to sharing and learning sector lessons and experiences. What the Sector has not been achieved is the critical element of information coordination especially among the NGO/CSO Sector

The Conference reports and other materials made available at the conference center in the form of newsletters, etc, could constitute a library. If reports were consistently produced and shared, we should be having 23 reports sitting on our shelves, no matter, how dusty they may be. These volumes of information have been a constant reference points for researchers and other sector practitioners who need

information about the sector. This has in no small way enhanced knowledge and learning.

The platform has also been part of the Knowledge Management as part of the sector's Resource Center Development Project. There was a representation on the Committee set up to facilitate the process. The Conference has also been a forum for exhibiting/demonstration new technologies and designs on water and sanitation facilities.

Phase 2 Strategy Implementation Mole V – IX (1994 – 1998)

At the Conference held in 1994, it was clear that the results of the **four previous Conferences had provided inputs into the formulation of the New National Strategy. Mole V** thus reviewed all the recommendations made at the four previous Conferences, and established their relevance in the light of the newly adopted National Strategy. This phase of ***Mole Series*** was devoted to working towards improving the strategy implementation processes using field-based experience from the various actors.

Mole V and VI discussions centred on project-based experiences in the context of training, health education, latrines and water facility options. The institutional arrangement for effective delivery of the strategy at the District Level – **DWST and Partner Organisations** was also discussed. The conference clarified the roles of the **DWSTs** and **POs** and how the **DWSTs** fit into the structure of the DA. The Roles of **RWSTs, SBDUs** were also discussed. The conference further discussed the conditions for the pre-qualification/selection of **POs and SBDUs**. Capacity of **DWSTs** and **POs** were also discussed. As part of the review it was realized that not much progress was made on sanitation. **Sanitation had become a 'step-child' to water.** Indeed under the long running joint co-operative effort made under the ***Mole Series***, this was the first time sanitation was given a place of its own. A need for **CWSD** to have a resource center to serve as a repository of sector information was also recommended. This has been achieved in part by the Resource Center Development Project

By this time, **CWSD had been established and co-financed Mole VII. A recommendation made during Phase I of Mole Series has now come to fruition.**

By **Mole VIII**, it was apparent that some of the stakeholders particularly NGOs were not happy about the contracting element of

the strategy as this conflicted with their values. Some were also not happy about the contracting procedures and processes and cracks had begun to show among the team players. **Mole VIII** was therefore a ‘**peace builder**’ for the sector. Another problem emerged during this phase – non-compliance with sector strategy. There were evidences to show that some stakeholders, particularly NGOs/Donors (“the big boys/girls” as they were referred to) were ‘doing their own things’ – implementing with, if any, little regard to the strategy. If **Mole VIII** was a peace builder, **Mole IX** purpose was to ‘plead’ with everyone to work within the strategy. **Mole IX** had recommended for the development of water and sanitation plans by DAs. This was re-echoing one of the recommendations made by **Mole I**. And so it came to pass that DAs have water and sanitation plans.

Do not forget that the lurching of the sector strategy brought in its wake the ‘Partition of Ghana’ towards water and sanitation delivery as follows:

- The World Bank support – Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Western Region and Upper East Region
- DANIDA Support – Eastern and Volta Regions
- CIDA – Northern Region
- AFD - Central Region, etc,

Do not also forget that by **Mole IX**, a new sector programme was or had been developed and the institutional arrangements had been modified. In particular, the role of SBDO was gone.

By the 10th year of the Series, **Mole’s** contribution to the domestic Sector was clear. The *Series* therefore decided to set new agenda for itself – **TO BE Y2K COMPLIANTS (Its Role in the Next Millennium) and CONTRIBUTE TO THE GLOBAL WASH SECTOR. “Mole into the Next Millennium”** was theme for discussion under **Mole X**. A critical contribution made at **Mole X** was the recommendation for transparent contract procedures and the devolution of the contracting processes and procedures to the DAs/District Tender Boards from RWST/CWSA

“A nation that does not honour its heroes is not worth dying for” so the goes the saying. Consequently, **Mole X**, whilst still discussing pertinent sector issues found the space to honour her ‘sons and daughters’ whose contribution has helped shaped the sector.

Phase 3 The NGO Agenda Mole XI – XIV (2000 – 2003)

Phase 3 of the Mole Series spanning the period 2000 and 2003 was to facilitate effective collaboration, networking and coalition building among the sector NGOs in Ghana. The Global Agenda for *Mole Series* was also set in motion. Members of the ‘Mole Family’ were sponsored to participate in World Water Forum. A presentation on the *Mole Series* was well received during the **2001 Stockholm Water Symposium** in Sweden. The reports from these gatherings further strengthened the need for networking among the NGOs not only in Ghana but also at the global level. **Mole XI** was the forum set for discussing the agenda.

By this time of **Mole XII**, most sector NGOs were not ‘involved’ in the sector programme. The second phase had ‘knocked’ them out. The NGOs then decided to “Look Back at the Community Water and Sanitation Programme”. The contracting procedures were not perceived to be fair as there were perceptions that some the organisations (POs and consulting firms) could be linked to some of the Sector ‘referees’. Critical among the recommendations were decentralizing contracts to DA level, integrating water resource management into water supply and sanitation delivery and, again, community’s inability to contribute 5% towards the capital cost of facility (upfront).

Mole XII also contributed to the shaping of Ghana’s Vision on Water dubbed “VISION 2025”. WRC was the facilitator of the VISION, having participated in shaping the Africa and West Africa Visions.

Whilst some of the earlier Series has set in motion the process of establishing a NGO Network, the process was not complete until Mole XIV. Consequently, **Mole XIV** adored a Coalition, **COALITION OF NGOS IN WATER AND SANITATION (CONIWAS)**. This was a major feat achieved by the *Mole Series* and this marked the end of the 3rd Phase of *Mole Series* contribution to the sector

Phase 4 The MDGs/Sanitation Agenda Mole XV–XIX (2004 – 2008)

The Series during this Phase had come of age (older than the 4th Republican Constitution) and matured in its advocacy role after its birth to CONIWAS. The Secretariat had been established and funding secured for the core programme activities. The baby has the responsibility for ensuring that her family meets every year for a family renewal.

The MDGs has become a global agenda and **Mole Series** decided to play a meaningful role in the targets' achievement. However, she could not do it alone unless she seeks the support of all stakeholders through an effective partnership framework. **Mole XV** did just that in 2004. It is worth noting the sector was consolidating its achievements, strategies and policies. And this culminated into the **National Water Policy** in June 2007. **Mole Series** was part of the processes which led to the achievement of this task. Indeed, this was one policy recommendations made from the **1st Mole in 1989**

It had become evident during discussions that no one knew with certainty the total number of water supply and **shit** facilities on the ground. Remember that **Mole I** had recommended for map of location of facilities. Indeed this shows that the **Mole Series**, since its inception did not only think about the strategy and policy for the sector but also the numbers and functionality. **Mole XVI** therefore decided to trigger discussions on the number of facilities in terms of how they are reported, collated and disseminated. CONIWAS, CWSA/Water Directorate and DANIDA (example of collaboration/partnership) before this Conference commissioned a study into the reporting, assessment, measurement and monitoring of facilities towards MDGs. The result was not impressive. **Mole** revealed that the sector faces a serious challenge and there was the need to establish an effective mechanism for collating the numbers. One of such mechanisms was the **Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform (WSMP)** under Water Directorate.

Despite the concentration on MDGs, **Mole** still kept an eye on the implementation of the sector programme. **Mole** had noted a number of challenges confronting the sector and thus preventing the poor and marginalized from assessing the services. **Mole XVII** called on the sector stakeholders to deliberate and find solutions to these challenges. Meanwhile, coverage on sanitation had improved though marginal and there was the need to devote more space for discussing the challenges and identify solutions. **Mole XVIII** was therefore a sanitation affair, aimed at bridging the gap towards the MDGs. Do you remember a press conference which showcased Ghana as **second from the bottom** on the league table of poor-sanitation-related countries? The politicians were not comfortable but who was to be blamed? This triggered a series of reactions - a presidential debate on sanitation of which **shit house** featured very well; the media running

away with the story thereby helping in the awareness raising process; formation and training of WATSAN Journalist and the formation of National Technical Working Group on Sanitation.

What is good about **Mole** is that it raises the issues for the international community to talk about. **Mole XVIII** in 2007 had placed sanitation as a priority item on the domestic development agenda and in the following year the "International Year of Sanitation" (IYS) was declared. **Mole XIX** was held within the framework of the **IYS** and deliberated on options to expand and accelerate the achievement of sanitation target.

Phase 5 The Mix Agenda Mole XX – XXIV (2009 – 2013)

Phase five in the frame of reference for the **Mole Series** has been a mixed agenda ranging from looking back again at the conference performances over the period, relationship between climate change and water resources and need to provide mechanisms for early warning systems and climate resilient strategies for managing water resources. Earlier Conferences have advocated for a decentralised approach to service delivery and part of this period was also devoted to challenges and lessons which have characterised WASH Services delivery through decentralised approaches. This period also looked at WASH Services within the context of Oil and Gas find. Though previous Conferences have advocated for increased financial commitment to Sector, no effort was made to discuss in detail the kind of financial arrangement and mechanisms required until **Mole Series XXIII**. Discussion focused on meeting international commitments – MDGs, e-Thekweini, etc, with the assumption that if this is achieved more resources would be made available to the sector. Community level financing was also discussed and a move to service delivery approach was highly advocated as a means towards long-term sustainability of facilities. One of the flashpoint of **the Mole XXIII** was the recognition by the President, His Excellency John Mahama, of the Communiqués in his first six months policy statement (4th September 2012). In this Statement, His Excellency acknowledged the challenges in the water supply and sanitation sector, especially in the urban subsector. He stated in part that "Coverage of rural water supply is improving considerably, but urban water supply production and distribution continues to be a management challenge. Citizens are already paying considerable amounts for potable water, including patronizing very expensive "pure water" options. Poor rural residents,

however, do not even have sufficient access or the resources to patronize these potable water sources”.

His Excellency further acknowledged the complementary role of Non-Governmental Organisations in delivering sustainable WASH Services to people especially the poor and marginalised in the country. He further mentioned that “The coalition of NGOs in water has made good recommendations to address this situation” through the Mole XXIII Conference. His Excellency the President in policy statement directed the responsible Ministries to work with the NGOs towards implementing the recommendations. He stated in part that “Flowing from the above, I have directed the Minister for Water Resources, Works and Housing, the Ghana Water Company, and the Community Water and Sanitation Agency to, within the next 3 weeks, engage the non-governmental actors and private sector operators to provide an immediate solution to this challenge. I await the results of their deliberations for immediate actions.”

Mole XXIII advocated for the dissemination of some of the project documents developed by the CWSA. This processes have started culminated in the lunch of National Community Water and Sanitation Programme, Project Implementation Manual (PIM) and Legal Instruments governing management and services delivery

Mole XXIV centered on opening the space for showcasing innovative sanitation and hygiene mechanisms and discussing challenges impeding the up-scaling of sanitation interventions.

Section Four

Conclusion

4.1 Conclusion

Mole Series is considered one of the longest running conferences in Ghana. Discussions above have no doubt provided enough evidence to demonstrate the contributions of the Conference to the WASH Sector in particular and the development of peoples’ well-being in general. It has supported the government through its Ministries, Agencies and Departments to fashion out strategies, policies and action plans for implementation. It has also provided space of engagement for sector stakeholders to deliberate on issues pertinent to the growth of the Sector. The Series have issued several communiqués, the achievement of most of them which have spanned over one year.

Planning of the Conference and the implementation of the Conference Communiqué has not been without challenges. Funding has been a major challenge in the sense that some organisations fail to meet their funding commitment after their initial promise or reduce what they have initially committed.

Implementation of the communiqués has also not being easy for agencies who are expected to do that. The conference seeks to raise issues but do not have capacity to enforce organisations to implement the recommendations. Some of the recommendations also take time to come to fruition. This notwithstanding, and from the review above, Mole Series has by and large a successful forum for Sector Stakeholders. The importance of the Conference came to the fore when the President, His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, in his first six months Policy Statement to the Nation acknowledged the communiqué from the 23rd Conference and directed state institutions to work out mechanisms for implementing the conference outcome.

Fun Memories

Use of Technical Jargons

“When I first attended the Mole series at the Damongo Mole Reserve, I could not understand a word of what was being discussed so I asked my boss quietly what was discussed but he replied that he also could not understand the discussions. Of course, he was a Dutch who was still learning the English language but that was not why he did not understand. It was just that the presentations were too technical for the average lay man in the water sector to understand. I hope this helps in the writing and presentations because not all participants are conversant with the technical language of the sector.”

Introduction of ‘Open Space Technology’

When it was announced that group discussions would be based on “Open Space Technology”, some people craned their heads trying to catch where the physical technology was located or coming from. The facilitator had only a microphone in hands.

‘Diarrhoeal’ Experience

At one of the Mole Series in the Reserve, about a third of the participants were ‘shiting themselves” probably as a result of the food and or water quality.

Profile of Mole Series (1989-2013)