



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



A Profile of Mole Conference Series

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List of Acronyms

AU	African Union
CIU	Community Improvement Unit
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CONIWAS	Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation
CWSA	Community Water and Sanitation Agency
CWSD	Community Water and Sanitation Division
DAs	District Assemblies
DPs	Development Partners
DWSTs	District Water and Sanitation Teams
EHO/As	Environmental Health Officers/Assistants
ESAs	External Support Agencies
ESP	Education Strategic Plan
GES	Ghana Education Service
GOG	Government of Ghana
GWCL	Ghana Water Company Limited
GWSC	Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Country
ISODEC	Integrated Social Development Centre
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoE	Ministry of Education
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
MSWR	Ministry for Sanitation and Water Resources
NESP	National Environmental Sanitation Policy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSS	National Service Scheme
NWP	National Water Policy
PNDC	Provision National Defence Council
PO	Partner Organisation
RCD	Resource Centre Development
RWSTs	Regional Water and Sanitation Teams
SBDU	Small Business Development Unit
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SESSIP	Strategic Environmental Sanitation Investment Plan
SWA	Sanitation and Water for All
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Health/Hygiene
WRC	Water Resource Commission
WRI	Water Resource Research Institute
WSMP	Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform
WSS	Water Supply and Sanitation

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** 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
Kofi Asamoah
Akua Nkrumah
Nii Ayi Bortele
Robert Richter Bannerman (Uncle Bob)
Naa Dogoli
Joseph Asante
Hawa Nibi Amenga-Ethego*

And many others whose names we cannot remember

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Section One Background and Context

1.1 Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to profile the Mole Series and its contribution to the development of Ghana's WASH sector in terms of policy and practice. The document chronicles the events, methods, processes, successes, challenges and achievements of the Mole Conference series since its inception thirty years ago.

1.2 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, national, government, local government and development partners alike. The **Mole Series**, as it is known today, has evolved from what was primarily an NGO forum into the most important multi-stakeholder platform within the WASH Sector in Ghana. It is also one of the longest running and consistent running conferences in the country. 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 30th edition of **Mole Series** it is imperative to reflect on how these annual stakeholder dialogues over the past 29 years have impacted on the WASH sector in Ghana.

1.3 Overview 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 sector weaknesses. Some of these include changing from Ministry of Works and Housing to the Ministry of Water Resources Works and Housing (MWRWH), the establishment of sector organizations including the Water Directorate within the MWRWH between 2006-2007, the establishment of Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) and the Water Resources Commission (WRC), Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate (EHSD). **Mole Series** had in the past advocated for the establishment of separate Ministry for the WASH Sector and this was fulfilled in 2017: the birth of Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR).

Within the context of the reform process in the sector, 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 of 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.

The National Environmental Sanitation Policy (NESP, 1999) was revised and adopted in 2010. The policy provides framework for coordination and implementation of environmental sanitation initiatives from the national to the community level. The overarching goal 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 main pillars of the Policy include *capacity development, Information, Education and Communication (IEC); Legislation and Regulation; Sustainable Financing and Cost Recovery; Levels of Service; Research and Development; Monitoring and Evaluation*. The critical principles underpinning the policy are *environmental sanitation as both a public and an economic good; polluter-pays-principle; improving equity and gender sensitivity; and the precautionary principles aimed at minimizing activities with negative effect on the environmental resources*.

The National School Health Education Policy (2012) provides a framework for holistic approach to the implementation of School Health interventions and streamline the various policies and activities of all agencies, departments, NGOs, and individuals who offer School Health services. The Policy seeks to bring together all policy issues on School Health into a comprehensive policy document to give focus and measurable direction to programme implementation; streamline and enhance programme co-ordination; effectively and efficiently maximize the use of available scarce resources; provides institutional framework within which stakeholders will be assigned roles and responsibilities; and provide the channel and mechanism through which the commitment of political leaders and stakeholders can be sought.

Riparian Buffer Zone Policy for Managing Freshwater Bodies in Ghana (2012) was designed to harmonize all dormant and fragmented regulations in the country concerning buffers bordering water bodies or river systems. It provides comprehensive measures and actions that would guide the coordinated creation of vegetative buffers for the preservation and functioning of our water bodies and vital ecosystems. Whilst the Policy aims ensuring that all designated buffer zones along rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs and other water bodies shall be sustainably managed for all, the objectives are *to protect, restore and maintain the ecological and livelihood –support functions of the buffer zone; to ensure equitable and sustainable utilization and management of buffer zone conservation areas, which will contribute to long-term well-being of both resident and downstream communities; to intensify capacity building, education, and training of stakeholders and ensure their commitment to the conservation of the buffer zone; to coordinate and harmonize policies and laws in the area of buffer zones amongst various governmental agencies with the view to achieve maximum synergy; to set guidelines for buffer zone designs that can be incorporated into the planning and decision making of other sectors; to promote research in the protection and management of buffer zones for water conservation, maintenance of ecosystem integrity and socio-economic growth; to encourage the development and management of buffer zones in urban and peri-urban areas by integrating natural systems into development planning; and to support international efforts to protect and manage buffer zones.* The policy further identifies five major areas for which it sets out specific objectives and measures and/or actions within the context of the national development goals.

One important characteristic threading through all these policies is that they were all developed within the framework of MDGs, GPRSP I & II, GSDGP I&II, and NEPAD.

To translate policies into actions the Sector developed a number of strategic documents and implementation plans. Water and Sanitation Strategic Development Plan (WSSDP, 2012-2025) 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. It is based on a vision for a universal access by all to water and sanitation services 2025 and contains a detailed set of objectives and prioritized activities within the timeframe. The roles of key sector stakeholders are also outlined in the WSSDP. It 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 and responded to Ghana’s commitments to regional/global targets such as the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) Ghana Compact, eThekwini Declaration. Financial framework covering the plan was also developed.

Other strategic documents available to the Sector are provided in the table below

The National Community Water and Sanitation Strategy (2014)	The National Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plan (NESSAP) (2011)
The Project Implementation Manual-NCWSP (2014)	The MDG Acceleration Framework (2011)
The District Operational Manual-NCWSP (2014)	The Rural Sanitation Model Strategy (2012)
Drinking Water Quality Framework for Ghana (2015)	WASH in Schools National Minimum Standards (2016)
Guidelines for Targeting the Poor and Vulnerable for Basic Sanitation Services in Ghana (2018)	National Costed Strategy for WASH in Schools (2017)
Education Strategic Plan (ESP, 2018-2030)	Education Sector Medium-Term Development Plan (2018-2021)
Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Strategic Plan (2014)	Behaviour Change Communication Strategy (2009)
Metropolitan/Municipal/District Water and Sanitation Plans (M/DWSPs)	Metropolitan/Municipal/District Environmental Sanitation Strategy and Action Plans (M/DESSAPs)

Like the Policies, most of these strategic documents were developed within the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and national development frameworks which preceded the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the AU Agenda 2030 and the *Ngor Declaration* (which replaced the eThekwini Declaration). Given population changes and the level of access to services based on SDG indicators/targets, we require a review of all sector policies, strategic documents and investment plans which will enable the country to ensure that every person everywhere have access to improved sustainable WASH services.

1.4 Institutional Framework for Delivering WASH Services

There is fairly an established institutional structure with clear lines of responsibility to deliver WASH services across the country. At the national level the MSWR, MLGRD and Ministry of Education (MoE) are responsible for policy formulation, harmonization, monitoring and evaluation, research and coordination of WASH activities and ensure that financial requirements of the MDAs are met. Whilst the MLGRD is responsible for MMDAs, Water Directorates under MSWR coordinate the activities of GWCL (urban water supply), CWSA

(facilitates rural and small-town water and basic sanitation), and WRC (water resources management). School Health Education Unit delivers on services relating to schools as espoused in the School Health Education Policy and ESP 2018-2030.

Service delivery is decentralized with national-level institutions providing policy and monitoring frameworks, MMDAs by the Act that establishes them are required to meet the development needs of all the people in their areas of jurisdiction. WASH Plans/M/DESSAPs integrated into the MTDPs have been the main tools to facilitate WASH Services delivery. Roles and responsibilities for NGOs/CSOs (both national and international), the Private Sector, Community institutions and Development Partners are clearly defined. The National Working platform provides space for sector entities to deliberate on issues affecting the sector. Whilst the national coordination framework was developed in 2015 to coordinate sector policies, programmes and actions, its implementation still remains on the drawing board.

Whilst the establishment of the MSWR was considered critical to bringing focus to WASH services delivery and to ensure effective coordination of the sector, the actions of Ministry seem to remain at the national level without much impact at the regional and district levels. This is because the alignment of the Ministry to the regional and district level structures is not properly defined. A functional inter-Ministry Coordinating Committee for WASH would have helped cure this challenge. This is important since there are other MDAs who are also supporting WASH Services delivery under different programmes.

1.5 WASH Services Access

Information on access to WASH services has improved over the years from a situation where the focus was more on water services than sanitation. At the time of the first **Mole Series**, it was estimated that about 40,000 communities were without access to improve water supply services. With improved technology, human capacity, access to data and somehow clearer definition of standards, gathering and analysis of data in terms of WASH services access have improved tremendously.



According to MICS Report (2017/18) 79% of Ghana's population have access to basic drinking water. The access for both urban and rural are 93% and 68% respectively. For basic sanitation services about 25% of the urban population have access and for the rural communities it is 17%. A little over 1-in-5 persons (21%) practice open defaecation. 31% and 11% of both rural and urban population defaecate in the open. For basic hygiene service (mainly handwashing), 56% and 42% of the urban and rural population were identified to practice handwashing. It is 48% at the national level. These figures were based on targets and

indicators within the framework of MDGs. WASH Services inequality is reported across regions, rural, urban, districts and communities. Whilst 98% of the population in Greater Accra have access to basic drinking water, Northern Region has the least 50%. For basic sanitation, Greater Accra's access is 25% with Upper East 8%.

From EMIS¹, 30% of public basic schools do not have toilets. This translates to about 7,500 schools. About in 1-in-2 public schools (49%) do not have access to improved water supply services.

Almost two of every five children in Ghana (44%) attend schools without toilets, and three out of every five (62%) attend schools without water supply.

The SDGs introduced two major dimensions in WASH Services delivery. In addition to setting ambitious targets it emphasized on safety elements associated with accessing WASH Services. The safety dimension has

¹ Ghana Education Service (2018) "Education Management Information System (EMIS), 2018.

resulted in re-definition or re-classification of key indicators for sector leading to changes in the number of people with access to safely managed water and sanitation services. From the MICS Report (2017/18), the number of people with access to safely managed water supply services is 19% (national) and that for the rural and urban are 7% and 33% respectively, These figures based on safely managed services have wider implication on the WASH Sector. First, it will require more financial resources to meet the target of those unserved population whilst ensuring that the current services are sustainably managed till 2030. The 2020 Population and Housing Census will provide more information on people residing in this country and this will help in the review finances required to ensure that everyone everywhere have access to safely, sustainably managed WASH Services.

1.6 WASH Sector Financing

Adequate, timely and sustainable financing to WASH Services is critical to meet targets and indicators and ensure WASH for all by 2030. . This notwithstanding, the WASH Sector has not received the required attention as expected during the MDGs era and as well into the SDGs era. The challenges come in two fronts: the first is inadequate budgetary allocation and the other is untimely releases of appropriated budgets. Whilst allocations have been fluctuating over the period, sector financing has dwindled in relation to GDP. The allocations to MDAs for the three years to 2019 are GHs 255million for 2017; GHs189million 2018; and GHs246 million for 2019². The allocations in relation to GDP are 0.5% (2017), 0.3% (2018) and 0.1% (2019). According to the SWA HLM Assessment Report, Ghana requires US\$386million annually to achieve SDG 6 by 2030. This makes the 2019 budgetary allocation about 12% of what is required to meet SDG6-related activities for same period.

Releases and utilization of appropriated expenditures is also a challenge to the sector MDAs. For instance, in 2017 up to September, GHs14.3 million out of GHs47million was released by MoF to WASH Sector MDAs. Only GHs.4.4million was actually received and utilised by September³. Achieving Sector targets by 2030 with these actions will be a myriad if the situation does not improve.

² CONIWAS (2019) "Position Paper on Government's Budget Allocation to the Wash Sector for 2019. A Paper submitted to the MSWR as part of Budget Advocacy in WASH Sector

³ CONIWAS (2019) "Post-Budget and Public Expenditure Performance Analysis of Budgetary Allocation to Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR). 2019

Section Two

Mole Series, the History

2.1 Introduction to the Mole Conference Series

A review of the available documents on the history of the Mole Series was to have a discussion on rural water with emphasis on hand dug well as an alternative option to borehole for rural water supply. 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 KPORDUGBE, 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 that time about 40,000 communities were without access to potable water supply and improved sanitation services.



WaterAid, a British Charity, who has then 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 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.

2.3 Managing and Financing the Conference

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. Thus, until 2004, the management and implementation of the **Mole Series** was by ProNet (1994-2004).

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 participation. Thus, **Mole Series** has moved from a situation where participation was ‘free’ to the current system of ‘fee-paying’ though there is a level of subsidies⁴ inherent in the financing arrangement. It is also important to observed that Mole Series used to be organised around June/July every year but it has gradually moved to November every year.

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

The history of **Mole Series** cannot be appreciated without understanding the planning process including how themes and sub-themes were determined. It was initially internal affair within ProNet and WaterAid. It was later made a bit more inclusive by submitting themes and sub-themes to key sector players, especially the ESAs to make inputs in the theme. All this while ProNet was still in ‘control’ of the planning and management of the conference. This shifted to CONIWAS after 2003 and even then, the planning process was taken place in ProNet Office because CONIWAS initially operated from ProNet’s office. It has been the tradition of the **Mole Series** to issue a Communique with the aim of enhancing Sector’s performance. It is worth noting that in the past there used to be *Mole cloth* for each Conference. Provided in the table below are the summaries of discussions and Communiques of **Mole Series** since its inception in 1989. They have been categorised into *Phases* with each *Phase* corresponding the development of the Sector.

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	2009 – 2012
Phase 6	The SDG Agenda	Mole XXIV-XXIX	2013 – 2018

⁴ With generous support from Development partners notable UNICEF Ghana.

Past Mole Series, Themes, Issues Discussed and Recommendation

Phase I: Mole I – Mole IV

Mole Series No.	Theme	Summary of Issues Discussed
I	Hand Dug Wells, Policy and Options (1989)	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 Conference had called for an establishment of a unit outside GWSC to manage the delivery of rural water services. The training and use of local level artisans as private sector service providers/supplies was recommended. The first Mole Series took place in the Mole Game Reserve in Damango, Northern Region . The Series was therefore named after the Reserve after its maiden meeting
II	Rural Water in the Context of Child Survival (1990)	<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 considered when deciding on the type and location of facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The meeting further stated that promotion of women’s participation should be a key component of any sector strategy.</i> • <i>A major principle agreed upon “water is simply not a technical interaction. It is inextricably linked with health education, community participation and sanitation”.</i> • <i>Standardization of hand pumps/hand dug wells was also recommended (GWSC/NGOs were supposed to organise conference in that regard)</i> • <i>The participation of DAs was in the Conference was highly recommended by Mole II.</i> <p>Mole II was held at Kokrobite Resort, near Accra.</p>
III	NGOs, the District and Water as an Entry Point (1991)	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
IV	Transition to Community Managed Water Systems - the Challenge to NGOs (1992)	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mole IV endorsed the Transition to Community Management as a sustainable process and not a divestiture of responsibility.</i> • <i>The meeting agreed that Women have a vital role in the community management process. HOWEVER, the ROLE SHOULD NOT UNNECESSARILY BURDEN THEM</i> • <i>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>

Past Mole Series, Themes, Issues Discussed and Recommendation

Phase 2: Mole V – Mole X

Mole Series No.	Theme	Summary of Issues Discussed
V	Training, Health and Wells - A Rural Water and Sanitation Sector Strategy (1994)	<p>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> <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>
VI	Partner Organisations and District Water and Sanitation Team: Main Players at District Level in Sector Strategy Implementation (1995)	<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 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 MWVH 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: <i>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.</i></p> <p>Conference Resolutions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>An enabling environment for the participation of the private sector;</i> • <i>Deepening the decentralisation process to facilitate the achievement of sector strategy</i> • <i>Explicit TOR for POs to enhance their activities</i> • <i>Active involvement of WATSAN committees is a requirement for sustainability</i> • <i>Need for team work between DWSTs, RWSTs, TNC, SBDUs and POs.</i> • 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>
VII	Promoting Sustainable	<p>The six previous Series 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 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"> • <i>Poor sanitation can undermine all benefits of water projects</i>

	Sanitation (1996)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <u>resource centre to serve as a repository of sector information</u> • 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	Team Building and the Profit Motive: A Sector Dilemma (1997)	<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	Streamlining Policy and Operations: Bringing Everyone on Board (1998)	<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
X	Mole into the Next Millennium (1999)	<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. 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;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>
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Past Mole Series, Themes, Issues Discussed and Recommendation

Phase 3: Mole XI – Mole XIV

Mole Series No.	Theme	Summary of Issues Discussed
XI	<i>Beyond the Second World Water Forum (2000)</i>	<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>
XII	<i>Looking Back at the Community Water and Sanitation Programme: The NGO Factor (2001)</i>	<p>Mole XII also took place at Villa Cisneros, Sogakope in 3rd to 7th June 2001. 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 • 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
XIII	<i>Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation: Our Hope for 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>

XIV	Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation: Consolidating Our Partnership (2003)	<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>
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Past Mole Series, Themes, Issues Discussed and Recommendation

Phase 4: Mole XV – Mole XIX

Mole Series No.	Theme	Summary of Issues Discussed
XV	Effective Partnership towards Achieving Water Sector Millennium Development Goals (2004)	<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 MDG 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 7. The highlights of the Conference Communiqué were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Commitment to prioritisation of WATSAN, MDG gap financing;</i> • <i>community capital cost contribution;</i> • <i>framework and partnership model for sector MDGs, Research, information sharing and learning, Balance between water and sanitation;</i> • <i>water-related diseases, accountability relationship and sustaining water resources and water and sanitation facilities</i>
XVI	Counting the Numbers: a Water and Sanitation Sector MDG Challenge (2005)	<p>Monitoring, measuring and counting of water supply and sanitation facilities towards achieving the MDGs is fraught with several challenges. These included the definitions of terminologies (<i>access</i>), double counting and different reporting mechanisms and systems. Mole XVI 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
XVII	Challenges to Delivery of Water and Sanitation Services for the Poor (2006)	<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. Mole XVII 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>
XVIII	Bridging the Sanitation Gap to Reach the MDGs (2007)	<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”. Mole XVIII 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/IOs in terms funding, skill upgrading to enable them step up extension services

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
XIX	<p>Reaching the MDGs for Sanitation: Options to Expand and Accelerate Coverage (2008)</p>	<p>Mole XIX continued where Mole XVIII 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. Mole XIX came at the heels of the International Year of Sanitation 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> <p>The government of Ghana should declare sanitation a national emergency and lead and support implementation with funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Past Mole Series, Themes, Issues Discussed and Recommendation

Phase 5: Mole XX – Mole XXIII

Mole Series No.	Theme	Summary of Issues Discussed and Recommendation
XX	<p>Twenty Years of Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue in Ghana: The State of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)</p>	<p>Mole Series 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 Resources Management, trans-boundary water resources management and climate change among others were also discussed at this meeting. There were representations 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> <p>a. <i>Commitment of Development Partners and CSOs to Move Mole Series;</i></p>

		<p>b. Consolidate Gains made through Sector coordination whilst collectively work towards improving compliance with and respect for sector policies, regulations and standards;</p> <p>c. Tracking the achievement of water and sanitation: Country Status Overviews</p> <p>d. Improving efficiency of water use through legislation and education</p> <p>e. Improving Government Commitments toward International Obligations;</p> <p>f. MLGRD facilitates the speedy establishment of District Works Department to enhance the Management of small-town water supply facilities</p> <p>The Conference further noted with concern challenges faced by Water Boards and therefore recommended the government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a special rate of tariffs for power used in the operations of small-town water systems; • 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; • Reduce undue interference in the operations of small towns water systems through the enforcement of the bye-laws governing the establishment of Water Boards • Develop effective capacity for sector knowledge management; • 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; • 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. <p>24 Participants were awarded during this forum. The conference took place at Hotel Chances in Ho.</p>
XXI	<p>The Global Climate Change: A Challenge to the WASH Sector in Ghana</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, 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

		<p>Water Supply and Sanitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>XXII</p>	<p>Towards Decentralized WASH Services Delivery: Challenges and Lessons”</p>	<p>This year’s conference was significant in two dimensions; it is the first time in 22 years that the Mole Series has been held in the Western Region and secondly, at the time that commercial quantities of oil 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"> • Governance, Accountability and Aid/Development Effectiveness in the WASH sector; • Dealing with long term financing for small town systems; • Oil, Gas, Mining and its implications in the WASH sector; • Scaling up Sanitation and Hygiene. • Innovations and New Initiatives in the WASH Sector <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>
		<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</p>

XXIII	Financing WASH Sector: Past, Current and Vision for the Future	<p>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 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. <i>Public financing of WASH services delivery: exploring options;</i> 2. <i>Capital maintenance financing practices and innovative option options for the future;</i> 3. <i>Policies, standards and regulations for WASH services;</i> 4. <i>Public-Private Partnership in WASH delivery.</i> <p>Some of the recommendations made at Mole XXIII were;</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
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Past Mole Series, Themes, Issues Discussed and Recommendation

Phase 6: Mole XXIV – Mole XXIX

Mole XXIV	Building Effective Partnership for Scaling-up Sustainable Sanitation Services	<p>The current challenges in the sanitation and hygiene subsectors require comprehensive and collaborative approaches to provide innovate 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Explore options and opportunities for sustainable sanitation delivery in Ghana</i> • <i>Examine public-partnership models for accelerated sanitation delivery</i> • <i>Ascertain relevance of operation, maintenance, and user fees as financing options improved sanitation delivery</i> • <i>Share knowledge and expertise on sanitation delivery</i> • <i>Provide recommendations for policy advocacy and influencing</i> <p>The main thematic areas were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public-Private Partnership for Scaling-Up Sustainable Sanitation Delivery</i> • <i>The Role of MMDAs in Sanitation Service Delivery</i> • <i>Community's Perspective in solving Sanitation Challenges: Opportunities and Realities</i> • <i>Sanitation and health linkages: A way out of Ghana's Sanitation Challenges</i> <p>In all 30 Papers were presented with 8 Panel Discussions. At the end of the Conference a 12-point Communiqué was issued for consideration by key Sector</p>
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		<p>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 Polluter Pays Principle on sanitation 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 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>
<p>XXV</p>	<p>Mole Series@25: Reflection to Define the Future</p>	<p>The 25th year of the Conference was to reflect on the contribution of the Mole Series to WASH Sector. The theme for the Conference was therefore “Mole Conference Series@ XXV: Reflection to define the Future”.</p> <p>The objectives the Conference were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reflect on past conference proceedings and their added value to the WASH sector; • To identify and outline mechanisms for monitoring service delivery by sector stakeholders, especially NGOs/CBOs; • To identify effective ways of tracking policy and strategy implementation including the Sanitation and Water for All global commitments; and • To share and learn innovative project experiences. <p>The broad sub-theme which defined the Scope of the conference included Mole Conference Series in retrospect; NGO contribution to the growth and development of the WASH sector; Learning outcomes and new sector initiatives; and Fulfilling government commitments.</p> <p>The 11-point Communique included To strengthen the advocacy and watchdog role of CSOs through, among others, demonstrating development through effective programme implementation; to continue to provide the sector the needed support to implement and achieve the targets for WASH in the post MDG era, taking into consideration the changing dynamics and emerging trends in the provision of WASH services; To intensify support to Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to mobilize and coordinate the work of CSOs and ensure that all NGOs comply with national systems; to continue in a more intensive manner our support for the development of a database of CSOs and Private Institutions (PI) and harmonization of all existing information systems as well as make ourselves accountable through regular submission of all necessary reports; to support the sector to develop a framework and set up a mechanism to effectively manage lessons usually shared during workshops, other existing platforms and also adopt a common protocol to assess new technologies; to continue to mobilize the poor to explore their own innovative solutions as well as engage with government to explore more innovative financing in order to reduce dependence on external support agencies; to support the sector to fully operationalize policies and strategies through effective implementation and monitoring of progress against commitments; to continue to monitor the implementation of the 2014 SWA commitments and partner government to achieve set targets; to work more intensively with government and other sectors to reduce WASH-related diseases and support effective roll out of CLTS nationwide; to continue exploring effective partnership models with especially the private sector, as well as other WASH-related sectors such as health; and, to revisit critical</p>

		<p>decision points of previous Mole Conferences such as the call for the establishment of a National WASH Fund and advocate for their implementation</p> <p>The venue for the Conference was Ramada Beach Resort, Nungua</p>
XXVI	<p>Financing Water, Sanitation & Hygiene within the Sustainable Development Goals: Options and Strategies for Ghana</p>	<p>Mole XXVI marked the transition between the MDGs and SDGs and provided a great opportunity to reflect on how Ghana performed during the MDG era from 2000 to 2015 and what needs to be done differently in order not to repeat the mistakes with the MDGs. It was also the first time the Conference was held in the Upper East Regions. The 12-point Communique issued revolved around 6 broad themes. These included:</p> <p>In order to deepen understanding of the SDGs and promote its local ownership: CONIWAS will immediately start liaising with the National Technical Steering Committee on SDGs to make inputs into the development of indicators, national baseline report and nationwide dissemination of the SDGs; Government in collaboration with CSOs should ensure the localization of the SDGs by working with the MMDAs and Communities to define their localized SDG targets such that ownership will be stronger at the local levels; this should be done in addition to intensified community engagement to participate in decision-making and demand accountability from duty bearers; Government, Development Partners and CSOs should urgently align the SDGs with the WASH Sector Strategic Development Plan (WSSDP 2012-2025) in order to ensure harmonious implementation of the two development agendas. CONIWAS will strongly advocate for this exercise to be prioritized and executed.</p> <p>To explore more sustainable financing options for the implementation of the SDGs: CONIWAS will support the Sector Directorates and agencies and collaborate with development partners to intensify strategic institutional engagements (public and private) to trigger investments in WASH; CONIWAS will intensify advocacy on the establishment of WASH Fund by the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing, such that its sources are diversified, equity ensured, timely launched, and effectively administered to wholly benefit the WASH sector; and CONIWAS will intensify performance tracking and advocacy on government commitments to WASH for.</p> <p>To achieve accelerated and sustainable impacts of WASH interventions: Government, Development Partners and CSOs should intensify activities towards changing cultural myths and practices that affect the progress of WASH development. Both WASH professionals and communities should be targeted: Government, Development Partners and CSOs should emphasize and apply the Life Cycle Cost approach to programme design during the SDG era to ensure sustainability of WASH facilities. MDAs in WASH should keenly monitor and enforce this as a rule; and Government and stakeholders should emphasize the use of district-wide approaches (DWA) and strategies, put local government at the centre of service delivery, ensure co-ordinated efforts as well as deploy financial resources to Districts in a timely manner.</p> <p>To facilitate monitoring of WASH sector financing commitments: CONIWAS will develop by 31st December 2015, a monitoring framework for government and donor commitments to SDG financing. This framework will be linked to the Finance for Development (FfD) Framework developed by the government as a means for implementing the SDGs</p> <p>To explore more and better partnership opportunities for financing the WASH sector: Key sector actors should explore opportunities in partnering with other related sectors to develop common projects to advance the WASH agenda, taking advantage of the fact that ten of the SDGs are all directly linked to WASH.</p> <p>In order to promote effective Knowledge Management, learning and sharing: Key WASH sector actors should support the adoption of a more structured learning framework. This should allow for a systematic process of building up knowledge and deploying them to ensure solutions that are informed by evidence.</p> <p>Ex-Tee Hotel, Bolgatanga was the venue for Mole XXVI</p>
XXVII		
		<p>Mole XXVIII focused on bridging the sector finance giving the fact that the GDP has expanded moving it from Lower Income Economy to Lower Middle-Income Economy. The major thematic areas underpinning discussions were <i>Intensive search for alternative financing sources for WASH, Advocating for equity and inclusion, Advancing strategies for Private Sector Participation, Advancing options for institutional and structural reforms in WASH, CONIWAS acknowledges that on-going institutional and structural reforms are necessary, and Exploring more policy and advocacy options.</i></p> <p>After a 4-day deliberations the following was issued as a Communiques from the Conference:</p>

<p>XXVIII 3-6 October 2017</p>	<p>Ghana's Lower-Middle Income Status: Implications for sustainable WASH services delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Push for Government to set up the National Sanitation Fund now; b) Advocate for and track expenditure on WASH with focus on comprehensiveness on spending on SDG 6 by MMDAs; c) Support government institutions to explore innovative and modern WASH revenue collection strategies that enhances collection and minimizes leakage. d) Monitor the implementation of pro-poor related commitments in various WASH sector policies and produce an annual report on it; e) Advocate for the development of a clear pro-poor targeting strategy and learning from other sectors. f) Continue to promote private sector participation in WASH through increasing visibility for investment opportunities in the sector; Continue to engage government to expand the reward system for private innovations in WASH; g) Support government with ideas to promote enterprise solutions to WASH; h) Push for the involvement of the academia in supporting the sector with innovation and the evidence base. i) Continue to provide technical support to the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources to develop its own necessary structures and strategies to enable it to play its leadership role effectively; j) Support the establishment of the proposed National Sanitation Authority and advocate for a clear definition of roles for each agency/department under the ministry; k) Advocate for the enactment of a Water and Sanitation Act that addresses regulation and implementation issues comprehensively; Monitor and ensure that any planned reforms will lead to universal and sustainable access to safe, reliable, and affordable WASH facilities and services. l) Call for immediate revitalization of the Sector Working Group, Ghana Water Forum, National Environmental Sanitation Conference and the Sector Performance Report; m) Explore and apply advocacy strategies that can effectively link WASH to the government's current development priorities – education, health, infrastructure and job creation; n) Support the advocacy efforts and leverage on community strengths to ensure sustainable WASH services in communities; o) Develop a database and report on civil society activities and contributions to support advocacy and also feed it into the national database on WASH; and, p) Continue to develop civil society capacity, especially those of women, in more advanced advocacy and lobby skills. <p>Mole XXVIII was held in Accra International Conference Centre, Accra.</p>
<p>XXIX 5-9 Nov. 2018</p>	<p>Reforming Ghana's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector towards Universal Access</p>	<p>The thematic areas discussed at Mole XXIX included institutional realignment for accelerated service delivery, effective sector policies and strategies, localizing the SDGs towards sustainable financing at all levels and integrity, social accountability and performance monitoring in the WASH sector. With these sub-themes the Communiqués issued were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We call on the Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources to, as a matter of urgency, reactivate the Sector Working Group and other coordination structures, especially the National Technical Working Group on Sanitation (NTWGS), Regional Inter-agency Coordinating Committee on Sanitation (RICCS) and the District Inter-agency Coordinating Committee on Sanitation (DICCS) across the country; 2. We will support and work with Community Water and Sanitation Agency (CWSA) to implement the reform agenda towards sustainable and pro-poor rural and small towns WASH services delivery; 3. We call on the President to support the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources (MSWR) accelerate the pace of institutional reforms particularly the establishment of the National Sanitation Authority and the National Sanitation Fund and the strengthening of inter-sectorial linkages; 4. We will continue to expand the space for citizens' engagement for sector policy development, dissemination, implementation and reviews; 5. We call on the Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources to take necessary steps to review all relevant sector policies and strategies by the end of 2019 towards the attainment of the WASH related SDGs; 6. CONIWAS will actively lead the process of localizing the SDGs at the sub-national levels to ensure sanitation and water for all by 2030; 7. We call on the Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources to lead in the coordination of relevant sectors and emerging institutions such as the Ministry of Special Development Initiatives, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Monitoring and Evaluation, and Ministry of Inner Cities and Zongo Development to avoid duplication, achieve value for money, improve accountability and maximize the capacity utilization of existing WASH institutions;

Section Three

Contributions of Mole Series to the WASH Sector

		<p>8. We call on government to prioritize and increase investments and release of funds to support the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and WASH.</p> <p>9. We call on government to expand implementation of the Rural Sanitation Model and Strategy (RSMS) and the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach to all regions and districts in Ghana and resource the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) for effective implementation.</p> <p>10. We will mobilize a critical mass of CSOs to intensify advocacy for functional local level leadership to deliver WASH sector priorities, public financing for WASH, and implementation of international commitments;</p> <p>11. We will continue to develop capacities to generate evidence to support informed advocacy and effective policy decision-making;</p> <p>12. We will monitor implementation of WASH programmes and projects and produce shadow reports to expose gaps in the judicious use of resources, quality and timely service delivery, rights and entitlements, public participation and citizen satisfaction.</p> <p>Villa Cisneros, Sogakope was the venue for the Conference.</p>
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3.1 Introduction

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 **Thirtieth 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 Policies and Strategies*
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 Policies, Strategy and Practice*, the evidence is structured into six (6) phases and each of these phases corresponds to the development of WASH Sector as provided in the table above.

Phase I 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 within 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. 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 statement 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 – WRRRI was the lead agency) and 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**’ which 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 begun 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 of WASH Platform. This was further re-enforced in 2007 and 2008 where Sanitation was the main theme of the Conference. 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 in 2012, though not as comprehensive as 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 for a 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, organization 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 was aimed at further strengthening the profile of the **Mole Series** as a platform for knowledge management.

The Conference reports and other materials made available at the conference centre in the form of newsletters, etc, could constitute a library. If reports were consistently produced and shared, we should be having 29 reports sitting on our shelves, no matter, how dusty they may be. These volumes of information have been a constant reference point 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 Centre Development Project (which metamorphosed into Resource Center Network in IRC). The Conference has also been a forum for exhibiting/demonstrating 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 then and is still a step child now.** 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 new rural water and sanitation 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 (sector) 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 and guidelines. 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 launching of the new rural water and sanitation sector strategy (NCWSP0 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,

This approach has continued to this year of **Mole XXX**.

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 SBDU 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. This recommendation has somehow come to pass.

"A nation that does not honour its heroes is not worth dying for" so 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 community water and sanitation programme. The second phase based on a modified strategy 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 **Mole Series** during this Phase had come of age (*older than the 4th Republican Constitution*) and matured in its advocacy role after it had birthed 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 **Mole I 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 mapping location of WASH 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 were collated, reported, 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. A weakness identified by the project and presented at the conference was that there was no coordinated approach and standards towards counting WASH facilities provided by different Sector players. There were perceptions of double counting facilities and thereby distorting the number of people with access to improved WASH services. It was recommended that a mechanism or unit be established to collate the activities of WASH Sector stakeholders. One of such mechanisms established was the **Water and Sanitation Monitoring Platform (WSMP)** under Water Directorate. WSMP died a natural death when there was no funding support from DPs to enable it operates. Phase 6 of the Series has seen a number of initiatives aimed at establishing sector M&E Systems

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 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 sanitation 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 Series** 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 **International Year for Sanitation (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** was a mixed agenda ranging from looking back again at the conference performances over the period, relationship between climate change and water resources and the 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-eThekweni, 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 Organizations in delivering sustainable WASH Services to people especially the poor and marginalized 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 resulted in the launch 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.

Phase 6 The SDG Agenda Mole XXV – XXIX (2015 – 2018)

The Phase 6 of the *Mole Series* witnessed about three important global and national development mechanisms all of which have effects on national WASH services as far as policy and strategy development and access to services are concerned. **Mole XXV** in particular happened around the time the international community was transitioning from MDGs to SDGs. Under the theme *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 193 countries of the UN General Assembly adopted the *2030 Development Agenda* in 2015. The Climate Change discourse was in full gear at the same time SDGs discussion was rounding up. This culminated in a global treaty under international law to combat climate change. It was agreed (adopted) by 195 nations in Paris during the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015. Around the same time Ghana had become Lower Middle-Income Economy, moving from Lower Income Status. All these have implications for services delivery in the WASH Sector. These notwithstanding the focus of **Mole XXV** was on reflecting on processes and actions of the Series for the 25 years.

The **26th Mole Series** discussed localising and financing the SDGs and the recommendation reflected same urging the government takes the necessary steps to localise the SDGs and reflected this discussion. It also recommended for CONIWAS to leadership in CSO/NGO participation in the SDG implementation process in Ghana. It is interesting to note that the NDPC issued Ghana's SDGs Baseline Report (2018) and Ghana's SDGs Budget Baseline Report (2018) all part of the process of localising the SDGs. With the agenda of ensuring everyone everywhere have access to improved sustainable WASH services, **Mole XXVIII** urged the sector to develop strategies and guidelines to identify the poor and vulnerable for targeted intervention. In 2018, the MSWR lunched guidelines for targeting the poor and vulnerable. The Sector Working Group which became non-functional since 2017 started meeting again from the middle of 2019. This was one of the recommendations made at **Mole XXVIII** and repeated at **Mole XXIX**. The MSWR has initiated the process of reviewing some of the sector policies and strategies to reflect the SDGs' targets and indicators. This was also one of the recommendations issued during **Mole XXIX** conference.



Section Four Conclusion

4.1 Conclusion

Mole Series has earned its name as 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 policies, strategies, 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 several years.

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 been 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 been 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.

The vision, passion and enthusiasm of the funding fathers and mothers still live on and until everyone every have access to sustainable safely managed WASH services, **Mole Series** will continue to create space for Sector actors to work toward achieving this vision.