



National Adaptation Plans in focus: Lessons from Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire is a country in West Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean (Gulf of Guinea), Liberia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ghana with total area of 322,463 km². As of 2018, almost 50.8 percent (12.73 million) of its population of around 25.1 million live in urban areas². Natural resources of Côte d'Ivoire are petroleum, natural gas, diamonds, manganese, iron ore, cocoa beans, coffee, palm oil, and hydropower, amongst others. The country is heavily dependent on agricultural activities that engage approximately two-thirds of the population, being the world's largest producer and exporter of cocoa beans and an important producer and exporter of coffee and palm oil³. Côte d'Ivoire is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, yet the poverty remains high at 46.3 percent⁴. In addition, the country ranked 165th among 189 countries on the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Index in 2019⁵. The country also has one of the highest gender inequality rates in the world⁶ and infant malnutrition and youth unemployment remain among the most important challenges for future development⁷. Despite its low human development rank, the country made substantial progress over that past 20 years, with GDP per capita increasing from US\$651.3 in 2000

to US\$1,715.5 in 2018⁸. The climate in Côte d'Ivoire is tropical along the coast, semiarid in the north and with three seasons: warm and dry (November to March), hot and dry (March to May), hot and wet (June to October)⁹. The long-term mean annual air temperature of 26.4 °C and the mean annual precipitation of 1414.5 mm was registered in the period 1901-2016¹⁰. Furthermore, historical climate trends show rainfall decrease of -3 percent in the country for the period 1901-2013¹¹ and air temperature increase over West Africa by 0.5-0.8°C between 1970-2000¹².

“Adaptation has become a priority in development planning. We believe that adaptation strategies are a prerequisite for ensuring our country's prosperity in the future”

Dr. ASSAMOI Abé Yapo Eric-Michel, UNFCCC National Focal Point

Climate change risks

The future climate projections for Côte d'Ivoire by 2050 show temperature increase in the range +1.3 to 2.3°C, rainfall changes from -2 to +7 percent with increased frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall events, change in length of dry spells from -8 to +1 days and sea level rise from +18 to 45 cm¹³.

Climate risks are recognised in several important sectors of the Côte d'Ivoire economy: coastal fisheries could see a 26 percent reduction by 2050, substantial loss in surface area suitable for cocoa cultivation due to rising air temperatures, water vulnerability or stress, increased coastal erosion and loss of forest cover due to the use of woods for fire and dependence on charcoal¹⁴.

The estimates from the World Bank suggest that Côte d'Ivoire could incur losses of CFAF 380 to 770 billion due to climate change between 2040-2100, with the agriculture sector, human capital, and infrastructure being impacted the most.¹⁵ The agricultural sector is mainly rain-fed and hence particularly vulnerable, with projected reductions in vegetation and decreased ecosystem productivity due to soil degradation, reduction of water availability and droughts between 2015-2100¹⁶.





Policy, planning and budgeting

The primary development vision and guiding policy for the country is the PND 2016 - 2020¹⁷. Through its fourth Strategic Area “*Developing infrastructure across the economy as a whole, while protecting the environment*”, the PND addresses the need to prevent coastal erosion and develop climate change adaptation capabilities.

The National Climate Change Programme (*Programme National Changement Climatique or PNCC*) (2014) is the operational body which coordinates strategies to tackle climate change and the Directorate for Climate Change (*Direction de la lutte contre les changements climatiques*) works at the political level. They both operate through the Ministry of Salubrity, Environment and Sustainable Development (*Ministère de la Salubrité, de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable - MINSÉDD*). It describes the main climate change projections for Côte d'Ivoire and the impacts on key sectors including agriculture, water resources, energy, biodiversity, health and coastal resources. Côte d'Ivoire's Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) (2016)¹⁸ identifies 11 sectors most vulnerable to climate change, including agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, land use, forestry, water resources, energy and coastal areas and estimates the total cost of implementing adaptation action to be US\$1.76 billion¹⁹. Plans have also been developed for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the INDC for 2016 to 2020.

An extensive national legal framework for environmental protection is in place, including the Environment Code (1996), the Water Code (1998) and other laws and regulations. Specifically, the laws focus on integration of economic development and poverty reduction without further degrading natural resources, preserving ecosystems and improving the quality of life. However, the integration of climate change adaptation remains restricted in sectoral policies, particularly in water, energy, agriculture, land use, and coastal resources due to limited understanding and documentation of interrelated climate change impacts across these sectors. At the sectoral level, an ambitious second National Agricultural Investment Programme (PNIA) (2018-2025) has been adopted²⁰ focusing on increasing resilience, developing agro-ecological approaches, improving production technology, and promoting women's access to land²¹. The NDC and PNCC also prioritise the water sector through the implementation of an Integrated Water Resources Management strategy for watersheds, agro-dams, hydro-agricultural sites, irrigation efficiency and improved management of rainwater and floods.

Preparing for adaptation planning

Côte d'Ivoire has been improving national data generation and management on a continuous basis in order to support the preparation of future national communications. It has established national and sectoral focal points for data management to improve data sharing among institutions²², with the meteorological national department primarily responsible for producing data and specific products on climate issues. Côte d'Ivoire has submitted three National Communications to the UNFCCC (2001, 2010, 2017). The Third National Communication (TNC), developed with support from UN Environment, highlights climate change work undertaken and planned by the country, drawing from extensive consultations with government, private sector, and civil society, and research that provided a sector-wise breakdown of climate change risks and impacts. The drafting of the Fourth National Communication (TNC) is expected to start at the end of 2020 or early 2021.

In the context of the implementation of its National Determined Contributions (NDC), which are also supported by the development of the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PNA) of Côte d'Ivoire, the Ministry of the Environment and Development Sustainable (MINÉDD), through the National Climate Change Program (PNCC) and in close collaboration with the UNDP benefits from support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the implementation of the project “Reinforcement of integration adaptation to climate change in development planning in Côte d'Ivoire”. The adaptation planning is crucial in 11 identified priority sectors that are most vulnerable to climate change. It is within the framework of the implementation of

this project that the study on “The roles and responsibilities of all the actors concerned or involved in Adaptation to Climate Change (ACC) in Côte d'Ivoire” was carried out. This study is one of the suggestions in the roadmap for the PNA process in Côte d'Ivoire, which indicates that specific institutional roles and responsibilities must be defined in order to successfully launch the interventions of the PNA process²³.

Implementation of adaptation actions

Several complementary climate change projects are on-going in Côte d'Ivoire, including:

- Enhancing the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire's Access to Climate Finance (2019, GCF): Enhancing Côte d'Ivoire's access to the GCF by supporting the accreditation of nominated national direct access entity (DAE) - Banque Nationale d'Investissement (BNI). Identifying capacity needs of the candidate DAEs and enhancing their capacity to prepare and manage climate change projects. Moreover, the proposed project will develop a national financing strategy to identify funding options including recommendations on mobilizing private sector investment for priority climate actions.
- NDA Strengthening & Country Programming (2017-2018, GCF): Establishing a National Designated Authority or GCF Focal Point and develop the strategic framework for engagement with the fund.
- Strengthening climate change adaptation integration into development planning in Côte d'Ivoire (2019, GCF/UNDP): Strengthening Government of Côte d'Ivoire's (GoCI) capacity to integrate climate change adaptation into national and sectoral planning processes.
- Strengthening the Transparency System for Enhanced Climate Action in Côte d'Ivoire (2018, Global Environment Facility (GEF)/UNDP): Strengthen the capacities of Côte d'Ivoire in the area of transparency, according to the decisions of Paris Agreement on Climate Change and thereby to achieve its goals related to low carbon emission development.
- Improved Resilience of Coastal Communities in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana (2018, UN Habitat/Adaptation Fund): Supporting coastal cities and communities to better adapt to climate change, enhance urban planning, and build resilience to coastal erosion.
- Integrating Flood and Drought Management and Early Warning for Climate Change Adaptation in the Volta Basin (2019, World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/Volta Basin Authority (VBA)/Global Water Partnership West Africa (GWP-WAF)): Assisting six countries in West Africa in the implementation of coordinated and joint measures to improve their existing management plans at regional, national and local level and to build on the lessons learned from the past and current projects related to disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation.
- Adapting to Climate Change and Increasing the Resilience of the Population in South-west Côte d'Ivoire (2012-2016, Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ): Delivering training and strengthening a local network of advisers to promote innovative production methods and disseminate knowledge on sustainable business practices and climate change.
- Global Support Programme on Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through NDCs and NAPs (SCALA) (2020-2025, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU)): support Côte d'Ivoire and 11 partner countries to overcome some of the key challenges for implementation of NAPs and NDCs, with specific focus on agriculture and land use.
- Adapt'Action (2017-2021, Agence Française de Développement): facilitate access to international climate finance for countries and speed up adaptation investments through technical assistance and capacity building.
- Strengthen the resilience of the population through better access to climate information (2018-2020, BAD): The project has three main objectives: improve access to climate information, gather climate information for pilot initiatives in the field of adaptation, provide climate information to support decisions processes at local level.

Challenges and successes

Support programmes

The NAP process has been supported by the GEF-funded joint UNDP-UN Environment NAP-GSP, the GCF, the Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) support projects, the NDC Partnership, GIZ, and the World Bank. Furthermore, additional support was obtained from the UN Habitat/Adaptation Fund, WMO, VBA, GWP-WAF, and GIZ.

The country has also appointed a Gender Focal Point with the support of the NAP Global Network to address issues of gender inequality in the context of climate change.

Challenges

There are several challenges in the adaptation planning process in Côte d'Ivoire. First, technical capacity to produce and use climate information or scientific studies is restricted due to lack of research and development at the national level, ineffective climate change technology transfer, and limited national trainings on climate change.

Second, the lack of coordination between national and sub-national levels and the absence of a singular authority on climate change adaptation has led to confusion in roles and responsibilities. Further, the sectoral impacts of climate change are not documented nor addressed through a guiding framework, and sectoral policies do not sufficiently incorporate climate change.

Third, a very low share of the national budget is allocated to climate change, and while the private sector is a key partner, they remain hesitant to invest in climate initiatives due to large upfront costs, long payback times, and a general lack of awareness of how the risks impact them.

Successes

Early successes²⁹ for Côte d'Ivoire include the existence of political will amongst government officials, who are genuinely interested in understanding and integrating adaptation strategies into their policies. There is also encouragement from government stakeholders to involve an already booming private sector in adaptation efforts. Further, Côte d'Ivoire is seen as a regional leader in influencing adaptation efforts in West Africa. Furthermore, progress made with World Bank Group-funded projects is noticed in sectors of agriculture, employment and social cohesion. For example, the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program benefited 800,000 Côte d'Ivoire farmers (49 percent of whom are women) to boost production and improve their standard of living, while the Youth Employment and Skills Development Project provided the first professional opportunity to 27,500 unskilled young people in Côte d'Ivoire³⁰.

June 2014

Côte d'Ivoire Law 2014-390²⁶ provided legal impetus for the NAP, which is to be embedded within a larger, integrated approach to environmental protection and sustainable development.

October 2015

A stocktaking exercise conducted through the PNCC was held with 40 professionals from the Ministry of Economy and Finance, GCF, GEF, UNDP, media, and local community organisations. The consultations provided an opportunity to validate a NAP roadmap with support of the NAP-GSP.

October 2016

By Parliament Law No. 2016-838, the Côte d'Ivoire Parliament authorized the President of the Republic to ratify the Paris Agreement on 18th October 2016²⁸.

March 2017

A Readiness and Preparatory Support Proposal for potential funding to support the NAP process is submitted to GCF for review.

February 2019

The Green Climate Fund approves the project outlined in the Readiness proposal.

September 2015

Côte d'Ivoire formally submitted its INDC to the Paris Agreement, as the 61st Party to do so.

April 2016

Côte d'Ivoire signed the Paris Agreement at the Signature Ceremony on 22 April.²⁷

December 2016

A workshop was held in Abidjan to validate the Stocktaking Report and develop a roadmap for a NAP for Côte d'Ivoire.

April 2018

Consultation held to refine the activities, and objectives of the NAP process including more direct involvement of the private sector, and of sectoral ministries in adaptation planning.

The process to formulate and implement NAPs

The procedure used for the identification of the responsible actors and institutional arrangements in Côte d'Ivoire consisted of a sampling by sector of vulnerability. The actors were selected according to their objectives, missions, programs, activities, etc. related to adaptation to climate change and can be subdivided into six categories: government institutions; research and development structures; technical and financial partners; the private sector; civil society organizations; and local communities²⁴. Several institutional arrangements exist in the fight against climate change in Côte d'Ivoire. However, coordination of all these mechanisms is ensured by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable - MINEDD), which is the institutional leader in this area²⁵. The National Commission for Climate Change (Comité National Changements Climatiques, or CNCC) is planned to be established as the main coordinating body for climate change, including adaptation, with day-to-day management of these issues under the purview of MINEDD.

Opportunities and next steps

Several opportunities have been identified for advancing the NAP process. A 2016 study³¹ estimated a 19 percent growth in the private sector especially in micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME). This presents a unique opportunity for the country to catalyse a growing player and capitalize on its increased role in society through facilitating improved financial strategies for adaptation projects and engaging them in strong public-private partnerships.

Côte d'Ivoire universities and research centres have demonstrated the success of targeted programmes through existing partnerships with the Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Technology (PASET) and the German Government. The promotion of national level and localised research and development could facilitate international technology transfers and the development of domestic technologies. Local-level data generation practices, analyses, and dissemination will also encourage researchers and practitioners to produce rigorous research, and policy makers to apply it in decision making.

Strong political will to monitor public investments also provides an important next step for adaptation planning. The Ministry of Planning has implemented an Integrated Analysis System of the Monitoring and Evaluation of Public Investment Projects (*système Intégré d'Analyse, de*

Programmation et de Suivi Evaluation des Projets d'Investissements Publics or SINAPSE) with the National Institute of Statistics, to monitor public project investment. This can be replicated for climate change adaptation with MINSEDD, enabling informed decision-making when allocating project funding. The scoping of such a system will be conducted with the help of GCF's Readiness and Preparatory support.

Finally, a capacity building plan with identified next steps revolving around four axes was defined for: (i) providing national entities with appropriate equipment; (ii) training and supervising the staff of national entities; (iii) improving and consolidating the synergy of national entities; and (iv) supporting the monitoring and early warning systems in the country³².

Key documents

- [First National Communication to the UNFCCC \(2001\)](#)
- [Second National Communication to the UNFCCC \(April 2010\)](#)
- [Côte d'Ivoire First NDC \(2015\)](#)
- [Third National Communication to the UNFCCC \(2017\)](#)
- [National Strategy to fight Climate Change \(2014-2020\)](#)

11 sectors involved in adaptation planning

7 government and non-government institutions represented in NAP coordination bodies

6 high vulnerability adaptation sectors

6 adaptation projects implemented thus far

3% precipitation decrease in the period 1901-2013

Temperature increase by 2050 in the range **+1.3 to 2.3°C**

18 people killed by heavy floods in 2018

26% reduction by 2050 in coastal fisheries

Currency loss from **\$80 billion** to **\$70 billion** in 2040

Notes

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- 17 Deloitte. https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/za/Documents/africa/za_ASG_Country%20Reports_Cote_dIvoire_Repro.pdf
- 18 UNFCCC (2020). NDC registry. URL: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/Pages/All.aspx>
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About the NAP-GSP

The joint UNDP-UN Environment National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) was launched in June 2013, financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). The NAP-GSP, together with partners, are assisting developing countries to identify technical, institutional and financial needs to integrate climate change adaptation into medium and long-term national planning and financing. The NAP-GSP provides technical expertise and guidance on country NAP processes, and opportunities for knowledge exchange on NAPs.



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