Deep Decarbonization Pathways

DDP Insights

Côte d'Ivoire



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From climate commitments to implementable pathways

Ten years after the Paris Agreement, Côte d'Ivoire has strengthened its climate ambition and put in place new policies, institutions and investments to support the transition. But the scale of the challenge has also grown.

Côte d'Ivoire remains a relatively small emitter globally, accounting for around 0.07% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2024. But the key challenge lies in the trend. Indeed, national greenhouse gas emissions increased from 10.3 $MtCO_2e$ in 1990 to 51.5 $MtCO_2e$ in 2020, while the country's carbon sequestration capacity fell from 63.75 $MtCO_2e$ to 16.76 $MtCO_2e$ over the same period, a decline of 73.7%, according to Côte d'Ivoire's national GHG inventory. As a consequence the country has turned from a net sink in 1990 to a net emitter, with emissions now more than three times higher than its sequestration capacity.

This edition of DDP Insights looks at what has changed over the past decade—and how new country-driven tools can help translate Côte d'Ivoire's climate goals into concrete transition pathways.

Explore the full analysis

This edition draws on the Côte d'Ivoire chapter of the DDP 2025 report, *A Decade of National Climate Action: Stocktake and the Road Ahead*, by Sylvestre Kouassi and Pascal N'Zue of University Alassane-Ouattara.

It also describes the on-going efforts to develop a vision of the long-term transition consistent with ambitious national climate action, thanks to the use of the DDP Pathways Designer.

Land use is at the heart of the transition

Côte d'Ivoire's emissions profile makes land use particularly important. Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) accounted for 65.2% of emissions in 2020, compared with 25.8% from energy.

This reflects a wider development challenge. The chapter identifies continued dependence on deforestation-driven agriculture as a major source of vulnerability, with more than 86% of natural forests already lost. Sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, forest restoration and deforestation-free production will therefore be critical both for reducing emissions and strengthening resilience.

There has already been progress. Reforestation, agroforestry and other restoration projects are now increasing tree cover and carbon storage in targeted areas, such as in Taï National Park which has sequestered a combined 8.5 $MtCO_2e$ by 2022, with further restoration and deforestation-free cocoa projects being developed.

However, these gains have not yet compensated for the long-term loss and degradation of natural forests: the chapter reports that more than 86% of Côte d'Ivoire's natural forests have been lost, largely linked to unsustainable agriculture. As a result, the country's overall carbon sequestration capacity has declined substantially.

Transforming the energy system

Energy is Côte d'Ivoire's second-largest source of emissions. Renewables accounted for around 34% of the energy mix in 2025, with the country aiming to increase this to 45% by 2030. Planned expansion includes hydropower, solar and biomass, alongside measures to improve energy efficiency and access.

But the chapter also identifies structural challenges. Biomass such as firewood and charcoal still represents more than two-thirds of household energy consumption, while natural gas remains important for electricity generation. Moving toward cleaner energy therefore requires not simply adding renewable capacity, but transforming how energy is produced and consumed, while supporting wider development objectives, particularly expanding access to modern energy sources and ensuring affordable energy services.

Ambition depends on finance and implementation

Côte d'Ivoire's updated NDC targets a 30.41% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, supported by 38 mitigation measures. Implementing the NDC as a whole is estimated to require $22 billion, including both mitigation and adaptation.

Finance remains a major constraint. The chapter reports that 78% of the country's climate financing needs remain uncovered, alongside continuing challenges around institutional capacity, climate governance and implementation.

These gaps make the question of *how* Côte d'Ivoire reaches its targets increasingly important.

From targets to pathways

This is where the DDP Initiative's new Pathways Designer comes in Côte d'Ivoire is one of the first three countries where the tool is being implemented, alongside Uzbekistan and Sierra Leone.

Rather than starting with an aggregate emissions target and working backwards, the Pathways Designer builds pathways from detailed transformations across energy, transport, industry, buildings, agriculture, forests and waste. It combines qualitative national narratives with quantitative analysis, allowing countries to explore the technologies, infrastructure, institutions and policies required, and how changes across sectors interact.
This on-going effort led by the DDP in-country team at University Alassane-Ouattara will provide concrete guidance for connecting long-term objectives with the policy and investment decisions needed today.

👉 Explore the Pathways Designer and how it is being used in Côte d'Ivoire

What this tells us

Côte d'Ivoire's experience illustrates why the next phase of climate action needs to go beyond setting targets. The country has strengthened its NDC, developed sectoral strategies and expanded climate governance, but implementation will require coordinated transformations across land use, energy and the wider economy, as well as significantly greater finance and institutional capacity.

It also stresses that the effort to enhance climate ambition and trigger national climate action can be beneficial in small lower-middle income country like Côte d'Ivoire to promote transformations that can support the achievement of domestic socio-economic priorities.

The Pathways Designer builds directly on this lesson. By starting with national circumstances and examining the concrete transformations needed across sectors, it can help connect long-term climate objectives with near-term policy and investment choices. This reflects the wider DDP approach: global climate goals become implementable when they are translated into country-owned pathways grounded in national development realities.

About DDP Insights

DDP Insights builds on the work of the Deep Decarbonization Pathways (DDP) Initiative, drawing on country-driven analysis to explore how national climate goals translate into real-world transformation.



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