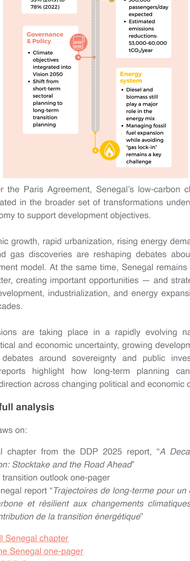
Deep Decarbonization Pathways

DDP Insights

Senegal

Senegal: aligning development and transition pathways

Insights from the DDP 2025 report and the DDP-Senegal project



Ten years after the Paris Agreement, Senegal's low-carbon climate pathway must be integrated in the broader set of transformations underway across the country's economy to support development objectives.

Strong economic growth, rapid urbanization, rising energy demand, and recent offshore oil and gas discoveries are reshaping debates about the country's future development model. At the same time, Senegal remains a relatively low per-capita emitter, creating important opportunities — and strategic choices — around how development, industrialization, and energy expansion unfold over the coming decades.

These discussions are taking place in a rapidly evolving national context, marked by political and economic uncertainty, growing development pressures, and renewed debates around sovereignty and public investment. In this context, the reports highlight how long-term planning can help provide continuity and direction across changing political and economic circumstances.

Explore the full analysis

This edition draws on:

- The Senegal chapter from the DDP 2025 report, "*A Decade of National Climate Action: Stocktake and the Road Ahead*"
- The Senegal transition outlook one-pager
- The DDP-Senegal report "*Trajectoires de long-terme pour un développement sobre en carbone et résilient aux changements climatiques au Sénégal : enjeux et contribution de la transition énergétique*"

👉Read the full Senegal chapter
👉Download the Senegal one-pager
👉Explore the DDP-Senegal report

Insights from the DDP 2025 report: progress and structural tensions

The DDP 2025 report highlights significant progress in expanding electricity access and renewable energy deployment since Paris. National electrification increased from 55% in 2015 to 78% in 2022, with universal electricity access targeted by 2029. Renewable electricity capacity also increased from around 13% of installed capacity in 2015 to 29% in 2024, supported by solar and wind deployment and the closure of the Sendou coal plant in 2019.

At the same time, the report highlights growing structural tensions within the energy system. Final energy demand increased by 27% between 2015 and 2024, while diesel, oil products, and traditional biomass continue to dominate the broader energy mix. Natural gas is increasingly positioned as a transition fuel following major offshore discoveries, raising questions about how Senegal can balance fossil fuel development with long-term climate objectives.
The report also discusses in detail to concrete sectoral transitions already underway, notably in electricity generation and transport.

At the policy level, Senegal's Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), signed in 2023 with international partners, represented a crucial opportunity to promote renewable energy deployment consistently with the electricity access goal and energy affordability targets while avoiding excessive economic dependence on gas in a context where Senegal starts the exploitation of its recently discovered natural gas resources

Until now however, the resulting investment plan did not trigger the expected acceleration of investment decisions, because of a lack of domestic ownership and clarity in the alignment with domestic priorities.

Among noteworthy institutional progress, Senegal has established a structured governance of climate issues, led by the Ministry of Environment and the National Committee on Climate Change (COMNACC), ensuring broad coordination among stakeholders involved in climate action at the national level. The preparation of a Long-Term Vision (LTV)), was the first opportunity to go beyond the short-term vision which had prevailed until now and instead anchor the development agenda in a long-term perspective.

Insights from the DDP-Senegal project: the role of long-term planning

Alongside the DDP 2025 stocktake, the DDP-Senegal project, supported by 2050 Facility, supervised by IDDRI and coordinated by ENDA-Energie, has explored how long-term analysis can support national transition planning.

The project examines how different development pathways could shape Senegal's economy, energy system, and emissions trajectory through 2050. Rather than focusing only on near-term sectoral targets, the process has helped align energy access, industrialization, resilience, and climate objectives within a coherent long-term framework.

The analysis shows that alternative approaches to reaching the JETP target by 2030 (40% renewable in electricity production) – either by developing in parallel gas and renewables or by fostering energy demand action – have differentiated impacts on long-term trajectories by mid-century, as short-term choices constrain long-term options. The analysis also shows that more ambitious short-term targets on renewable deployment can be compatible with long-term development goals and contribute to further reducing carbon emissions. In this sense, the project emphasizes that transition choices are not only technical, but deeply linked to broader questions of development and economic transformation.

The DDP-Senegal project also highlights the importance of a "co-construction" with diverse stakeholders (ministries, technical agencies, researchers, civil society organizations, and sectoral experts) for building national ownership, strengthening domestic analytical capacity, and ensuring that long-term planning becomes relevant for implementation and policymaking over time.

What this tells us

Taken together, the two reports show how climate action in Senegal is increasingly being framed through the lens of long-term development choices.

The transition is not only about deploying clean technologies, but about coordinating energy access, industrialization, infrastructure, mobility, resilience, and investment strategies within a coherent long-term vision.

They also highlight the value of inclusive, domestically grounded planning processes. By involving national experts and stakeholders directly in scenario-building and analysis, the DDP-Senegal process has helped connect long-term objectives with concrete policy discussions — including around gas development, renewable deployment, and investment priorities.

As Senegal continues preparing its long-term strategy and updated climate commitments, the reports suggest that the effectiveness of the transition will depend not only on ambition, but on the country's ability to align short-term decisions with long-term structural transformation.

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.

Join the DDP initiative on Bluesky