CÔTE D'IVOIRE
NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES FOR ON CLIMATE ACTION TEN YEARS AFTER THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

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INTRODUCTION

Côte d'Ivoire is located in West Africa with an area of 322,462 km^2. It is home to a population of 29,389,150 inhabitants, 47.8% of whom are women and 52.2% are men. The average annual growth rate is 2.9% between 1998 and 2021 (RGPH, 2021). Côte d'Ivoire shares borders with 5 countries (Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia, Ghana) and has a maritime facade (the Gulf of Guinea) with a 522 km long coastline. The country benefits from a transitional climate between the humid equatorial climate and the semi-arid tropical climate, which is characterized by rainy and dry seasons with a rainy and humid region in the south and a dry and hot region in the north. In view of this geographical location, Côte d'Ivoire pays particular attention to the problem of climate change, which is shaking the whole world.

In 2015, Côte d'Ivoire committed through its first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 28.25%, representing a reduction of approximately ten (10) million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent by 2030 compared to the reference scenario. The major shortcomings of the said NDCs were the failure to take forestry into account in the estimates and the lack of a system for monitoring and evaluating the country's performance. In accordance

with the requirements of the Paris Agreement, the State of Côte d'Ivoire increased its NDCs in 2022 to 30.41%, corresponding to a reduction of thirty-seven (37) tonnes of CO_2 equivalent in GHG emissions from all sectors compared to the reference scenario by 2030 (Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et de la Transition Ecologique/ Commission Nationale de Lutte contre les Changements Climatiques (Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition / Commission for the Fight against Climate Change), 2022). Ten (10) years after the Paris Agreement, it is necessary to take stock of the national perspectives on climate action in Côte d'Ivoire.

A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS FROM 1990 TO 2020 IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

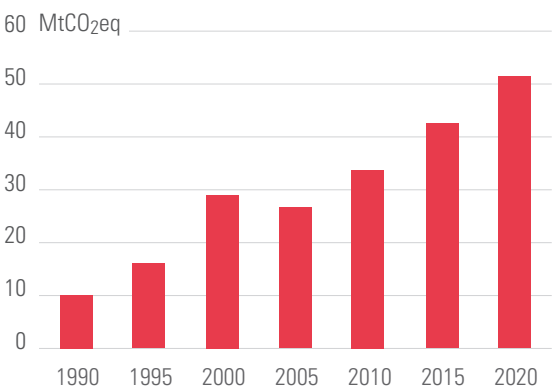
Pursuant to Articles 4, paragraph 1 (a) and 12, paragraph 1 (a) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and in accordance with decisions 17/CP.8, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17, Côte d'Ivoire carried out a GHG inventory in 2023 to demonstrate its commitment to implementing the convention. This report shows the evolution of Côte d'Ivoire's GHG emissions from 1990 to 2020 (see **Figure 1**).

The examination of **Figure 1** shows an increase in greenhouse gas emissions ranging from 10,306.153 Gg $eqCO_2$ in 1990 to 26,649.509 Gg $eqCO_2$ in 2005, then to 51,535.157 Gg $eqCO_2$ in 2020. This significant change in emissions reveals a reduction in the national sequestration capacity which goes from 63,748.351 Gg $eqCO_2$ in 1990 to 16,762.926 Gg $eqCO_2$ in 2020, a reduction of 73.70%. This moves Côte d'Ivoire from the status of carbon sink to the status of source of GHG emissions.

The major emission sectors are, among others, land use, including Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) with 65.19% emission rate, followed by the energy sector with an estimated rate of 25.77%. The third sector consists of solid and liquid waste with a rate of 7.69% while the last is all Industrial Processes and Product Uses (IPPU) which represents 1.35% of GHG emissions (see **Figure 2**).

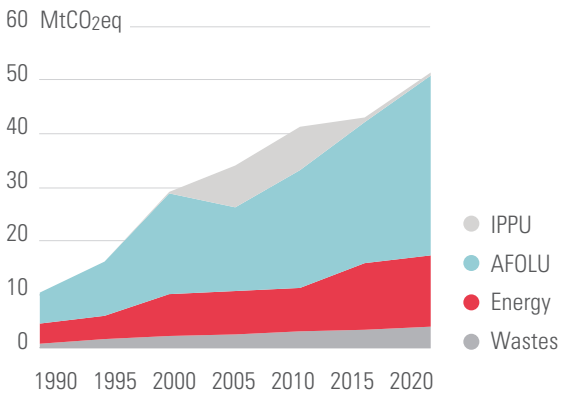
Emissions from the land use sector increased from 5,611.814 Gg CO_2 eq in 1990 to 15,690.278 Gg CO_2 eq in 2005 and then to 33,593.308 Gg CO_2 eq in 2020, an increase of approximately 80%. As for the energy sector, emissions increased from 3,842.135 Gg CO_2 eq in 1990 to 7,855.663 Gg CO_2 eq in 2005, compared to 13,280.701 Gg CO_2 eq in 2020. In this sector, transport emitted 31.76% and industry 37.73%. As for the waste sector, solid waste emits 70.92% of GHGs, compared to 27.11% for liquid waste and 30.49%

Figure 1. Evolution of GHG Emissions from 1990 to 2020



Sources: MINEDDTE, DLCC,
Rapport national d'inventaire (National Inventory Report), 2023.

Figure 2. Evolution of GHG Emissions by Production Sector



Sources: MINEDDTE, DLCC,
Rapport national d'inventaire (National Inventory Report), 2023.

for waste sector factors. The latter sector emitted respectively 8, 249 Gg eqCO_2 (1990), 437,448 Gg eqCO_2 (2005) and 696,099 Gg eqCO_2 in 2020 (MINEDDTE/DLCC: *Rapport national d'inventaire de la Côte d'Ivoire* (Côte d'Ivoire's 2020 National Inventory Report), 2023).

CLIMATE ISSUES AT THE HEART OF STRATEGIC PLANNING POLICIES IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Côte d'Ivoire's planning policy, which guides the national debate in the long term, follows a top-down approach. In 2015, the State adopted the results of the National Prospective Study Côte d'Ivoire 2040 (ENP-CI 2040). It is structured around the vision: "**Côte d'Ivoire, an industrial power, united in its cultural diversity, democratic and open to the world**." The interest of the ENP-CI 2040 is to promote social dialogue on the country's major structural problems with a view to seeking consensus around the desired future of the Nation, developing a framework for intervention by all development actors, including external partners, promoting a national capacity for forward-looking thinking and strategic monitoring, and establishing an institutional mechanism for strategic monitoring.

On the climate front, the ENP-CI 2040 draws the attention of decision-makers through thematic scenario 1 of theme 6 on the ecological disaster which will intensify GHG emissions by 2040. It is part of the dynamics of the United Nations Agenda 2063 (Ministère de l'Economie, du Plan et de Développement/Bureau National de la Prospective et de la Veille Stratégique - Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development/ National Office of Foresight and Strategic Monitoring), 2016).

In 2020, Côte d'Ivoire adopted the Côte d'Ivoire 2030 Strategic Plan, which sets out the strategic axes for the country's structural transformation over ten (10) years. It serves as a strategic framework for the country's journey towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The above-mentioned strategic documents served as the basis for the development of the National Development Plans (NDPs) 2016-2020 and 2021-2025, which define the concrete actions to be implemented each year in order to achieve the medium and long-term visions.

Based on national planning documents, each local authority (district, region and municipality) draws up its Territorial Development Planning Scheme or Development Plan, which defines the strategic directions of their interventions at the local level. Most of these local plans are organized into development axes, including that of local sustainable development, which defines actions in the fight against climate change.

These plans are generally called Green Plan or Climate Plan. For example, we can cite the Green Plan of the Mé region which defines concrete actions for environmental protection and natural resource management with a view to mitigating local emissions (Conseil Régional de la Mé - Regional Council of Mé), GIZ, *European Forest Institute*, 2024). We also note the Sustainable Natural Resource Management Plan of the San Pedro region which aims to ensure sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable low-emission agricultural production and the improvement of living conditions for communities (Proforest, 2023).

In the same perspective, the Ministry of Water and Forests adopted in 2018 the National Strategic Plan for the Preservation, Rehabilitation and Extension of Forests by 2045. This plan aims to improve forest governance, strengthen the protection of residual forest areas, extend and manage them sustainably in classified forests, restore degraded forest areas in rural areas and strengthen resilience to the effects of climate change.

There is also a National Action Plan for Renewable Energy in Côte d'Ivoire for the period 2016-2030. This plan indicates an installed capacity of power plants operating on the basis of renewable energy of 604 MW in 2010, which increases to 1,894 MW in 2020 and is estimated at 3,259 MW in 2030. As for the total electricity production based on renewable energies, it is projected at

11,293 Gwh by 2030, compared to 5,148 Gwh in 2020 and 1,618 Gwh in 2010. Côte d'Ivoire's ambition is to increase the share of renewable energies to 45% in the energy mix by 2030 with 26% from hydroelectric and 16% from biomass and solar (Ministère des Mines du Pétrole et de l'Energie - Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Energy), 2016).

All these planning documents that focus on the issue of climate change aim to strengthen governance, frame the intervention of actors, facilitate the search for financing, communication on actions to combat climate change and monitoring and evaluation of performance for the implementation of NDCs.

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE NATIONAL TRANSITION TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

Côte d'Ivoire has taken several important steps in its national transition process towards carbon neutrality, including the aspects of emissions mitigation, adaptation to climate change, climate governance and international cooperation and mobilization of financing.

Mitigation of GHG emissions

Côte d'Ivoire's new ambition to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30.41% by 2030 corresponds to a reduction of thirty-seven (37) million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent in 2030. It is based on thirty-eight (38) mitigation measures, including twenty-seven (27) unconditional measures and eleven (11) conditional measures.

Unconditional measures refer to actions that Côte d'Ivoire commits to implementing regardless of the conditions based on its own capabilities. As for conditional measures, these are complementary mitigation actions implemented by the country on the condition that it receives external technical and financial support. The implementation of these conditional measures should allow a reduction of 98.95% of total emissions in 2030 (Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et de la Transition Ecologique /Direction de la Coopération Internationale et de la Mobilisation des Financements: *CDN Côte d'Ivoire* - Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition / Directorate of International Cooperation and Funding Mobilization: *Nationally Determined Contributions of Côte d'Ivoire (NDC)*), 2022).

To achieve its new NDCs (30.41%), Côte d'Ivoire has resolved to restore 20% of the forest cover of the national territory and increase the share of renewable energy to 45% in the energy mix by 2030. Thus, mitigation measures are spread across five (5) sectors. In the energy sector, the Ivorian State is implementing 24 mitigation measures due to 17 unconditional and 7 conditional measures, representing a reduction of -37.66% of the sector's emissions. The waste sector is affected by 5 mitigation measures (4 unconditional and 1 conditional) aimed at reducing emissions by -12.96% from the said sector. The third is agriculture with 5 measures, including 3 unconditional and 2 conditional for a mitigation of -19.16%. The forestry sector with 3 measures could reduce emissions related to forest degradation by -150%, or 18%. The last sector is Industrial Processes with one (1) GHG mitigation measure. The estimated cost of implementing the 27 mitigation measures amounts to $10 billion out of an overall cost of $22 billion for NDCs (30.41%).

The 2024 National Climate Action Assessment Report in Côte d'Ivoire reveals 180 low-carbon transition projects are currently being implemented across the country. As a result, actions have been carried out in various sectors. In the forestry and land use sector, the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction (GRE) projects and the Forest Investment Project Phase 1 (PIF1) are the most representative projects that have achieved significant mitigation. Implemented around the Taï National Park, the main forest area of Côte d'Ivoire, these projects have sequestered 7 million tonnes of CO_2 eq and 1.5 million tonnes of CO_2 eq respectively, representing a total reduction of 8.5 million tonnes of CO_2 eq of GHG emissions in 2022. The reduction trend is significant with the implementation of phase 2 and the start

in 2025 of reforestation projects as part of the Forest Strategy for 2030. These projects include the ProForêt project and the Cocoa-based Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration project in Côte d'Ivoire (SCOLUR-CI) and the Promoting Deforestation-Free Cocoa Production to Reduce Emissions in Côte d'Ivoire (PROMIRE) project. These projects were carried out in several regions of Côte d'Ivoire, namely the regions of Mé, Indénié-Djuablin, Nawa and San Pedro.

In the energy sector, energy efficiency and renewable energy production measures will be implemented in 2023-2024. These measures aim to improve people's access to electricity and energy by making the price affordable for the majority of the population. They also involve increasing the level of use of renewable energy in electricity production. Côte d'Ivoire's objective is to increase the share of renewable energy to 31% in 2024 and to 45% by 2030, with 33% hydroelectricity and 12% biomass and solar. These objectives are focused on the development of 829 MW of hydroelectric energy, 545 MW of other renewable energies including 146 MW of biomass and 399 MW of solar, representing an additional capacity of 1,374 MW of which the share of renewable energies will be 2,283 MW out of the total capacity of 5,128 MW (République de la Côte d'Ivoire (Republic of Côte d'Ivoire), *Le Pacte National Energie* (*National Energy Pact*), 2025). The planned efficiency measures should make it possible to reduce 807 kt CO_2 eq, or 87% of GHG emissions. With this in mind, Côte d'Ivoire has set a target of 490 MW of its solar photovoltaic capacity by 2030. This system has made it possible to reduce GHG emissions by 9.33 kt CO_2 eq in 2023.

In the transport sector, the process of renewal and diversification of the Ivorian vehicle fleet and the adoption of Euro VI standards have made it possible to reduce emissions by 86 kt CO_2 eq in 2023 (Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et de la Transition Ecologique, 2024, *Rapport national sur l'évaluation de l'action climatique* - Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, 2024: *National Report on the Evaluation of Climate Action*), 2024). In this sector, there is also talk of emphasizing public or mass transport through buses and the Abidjan metro.

In the waste sector, the commissioning of the Kossihouen Waste Recovery and Technical Landfill Centre (CVET) and the biomethanisation project at the Akouédo landfill are contributing to a reduction of 25,000 tCO_2 eq/year (Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et de la Transition Ecologique, 2024, *Rapport national sur l'évaluation de l'action climatique* - Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, 2024: National report on the evaluation of climate action), 2024).

Adaptation to climate change, a priority for Côte d'Ivoire

The adaptation component is a priority for Côte d'Ivoire because of its vulnerability to the effects of climate change. Indeed, the country ranks 147th out of the 178 countries most vulnerable to climate change. To reduce this vulnerability and increase resilience, Côte d'Ivoire has implemented 20 climate change adaptation measures for a total cost of $12 billion out of $22 billion of the new NDCs (30.41%). These measures are envisaged in five (5) priority sectors: water resources, agriculture (livestock and aquaculture), forestry and land use, health, and coastal areas. The implementation of these 20 measures is expected to create 580,000 to 870,000 employments.

In the water sector, measures include promoting integrated management and technology transfer for better resource management. In the agricultural sector, Côte d'Ivoire is developing sustainable agricultural and agroforestry practices, such as climate-smart practices, which are strategies for adapting cocoa plantations to the effects of climate change. There are also deforestation-free production systems and agroforestry, which involve introducing trees into agricultural plantations. These adaptation strategies are part of the National Sustainable Cocoa Strategy (SNCD) and the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) mechanisms. The flagship projects developed by Côte d'Ivoire for

the implementation of these practices include, among others, the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction (PRE) project, the Promoting Deforestation-Free Cocoa Production to Reduce Emissions in Côte d'Ivoire (PROMIRE) project and the Scaling Up Transformative Innovations in Food Systems, Land Use and Cocoa-Based Restoration in Côte d'Ivoire (SCLOUR-CI) project.

At the Forest and Land Use sector level, the aim is to strengthen land governance, combat land degradation, protect forests and restore degraded forests and lands. To this end, the State has decided, since 2019, to transform classified forests with a degradation rate of less than 25% (category 1) into Nature Reserves (Mabi-Yaya and Bossématié Nature Reserves in the southeast and Cavally in the west). For those with a degradation rate of between 25% and 75% (category 2), the objectives are to strengthen the status and protection of said forests. As for those with a degradation rate of more than 75% (category 3), the aim is to establish them as an agroforestry system (Ministère des Eaux et Forêts (Ministry of Water and Forests: *Ivorian Forest Code*), 2019).

In order to improve land governance, the State has initiated the process of securing land tenure in the national territory *through* the pilot phase of the project to Support the Improvement and Implementation of Rural Land Policy (PAMOFOR) and the extension phase of the Rural Land Security Strengthening Program (PRESFOR). In the coastal areas sector, the State has developed an early warning system that is accompanied by support for vulnerable communities through physical and social investments.

A multitude of actors involved in climate governance in Côte d'Ivoire

Effectively combating climate change requires collective and coordinated action, given the cross-cutting nature of the impacts that affect all development sectors in Côte d'Ivoire. To achieve this, the NDC development process (30.41%) follows a consultative and participatory approach, including key ministries, the private sector, technical partners, local authorities, civil society, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). To honor the commitments made to the Paris Agreement in 2015, the State of Côte d'Ivoire has established several complementary structures under the leadership of the Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development, and Ecological Transition.

Prior to the Paris Agreement, the State created the National Program to Combat Climate Change (PNCC) on November 30, 2011, as the body responsible for setting up GHG mitigation projects and implementing climate actions.

The country also committed to the international REDD+ mechanism in 2011, with the ambition of restoring 20% of its forest cover by 2030. This commitment was reaffirmed in October 2012 with the creation of the National REDD+ Commission. This mechanism (REDD+) is based on an integrated approach, which combines economic development, social well-being and the conservation of natural resources, mainly in the agricultural sector.

In 2021, Côte d'Ivoire established the Directorate of International Cooperation and Funding Mobilization (DCIMF) to implement mitigation actions. The role of this Directorate is to develop strategies for mobilizing climate finance, ensure international cooperation, and guide the design of projects eligible for climate finance. Similarly, a new Environmental Code will be adopted in November 2023, establishing the Ivorian Environmental Code.

To better organize coordination between these structures through a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral consultation framework, the State will create the National Commission for the Fight against Climate Change (CNLCC) in 2024.

In order to better structure its carbon market, Côte d'Ivoire is creating the Carbon Market Office (BMC) in August 2024 as a one-stop shop for coordinating activities relating to carbon market mechanisms. It is a one-stop shop responsible for implementing the overall framework for Côte d'Ivoire's participation in carbon mechanisms. The BMC is made up of two (2) bodies, namely the Supervisory Board headed by the Prime Minister or his representative and the Technical Secretariat, the management of which is entrusted to a Tech-

nical Secretary, appointed in December 2024. The Office ensures the day-to-day management of carbon mechanism implementation activities, in accordance with the procedures manual applicable to activities eligible under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and the Voluntary Carbon Market. In addition, the Interprofessional Fund for Agricultural Research and Advice (FIRCA) was created to position itself as an institution facilitating the search for financing for mitigation projects accredited to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Efforts to develop international cooperation aimed at mobilizing climate finance

In terms of international cooperation and the search for climate finance, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has taken an important step by creating the Directorate for International Cooperation and Funding Mobilization (DCIMF). It is responsible for seeking all funding opportunities for climate change mitigation actions from climate finance agencies and developing projects to reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions.

Thus, the MINEDDTE, through the DCIMF, has developed a national portfolio of 300 Low Carbon Transition projects containing projects eligible for climate finance. The overall cost of implementing these projects amounts to 16 billion US dollars, or approximately 9,500 billion CFA francs. Among these 300 projects, fifty-three (53), or 18%, divided into six (6) priority programs, have feasibility studies and are bankable, of which ten (10) already have financing to start implementation. The priority programs in which the projects are defined are (1) National Integrated Program to Combat Climate Change, (2) National Agroecological Transition Programme/Agriculture Component, (3) National Circular Economy and Waste Management Program, (4) National Energy Transition Program/Electric Mobility, (5) National Agroecological Transition Programme/ Forestry Component and (6) Water Resources Management Program.

Funding for climate change mitigation actions in Côte d'Ivoire comes from various sources, the best known of which are the State, the private sector, Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Climate Adaptation Fund and the World Bank (WB). In the dynamic of seeking funding for sustainable agriculture, Côte d'Ivoire is setting up the Interprofessional Fund for Agricultural Research and Advisory Services (FIRCA), accredited to the Adaptation Funds and Green Climate Funds under the climate window of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). FIRCA's main mission is to mobilize funds from agricultural sectors, the State, the private sector and Technical and Financial Partners to ensure the financing of service provision programs in the crop, forestry, animal and fisheries production sectors.

Côte d'Ivoire is implementing a web-based platform for tracking and tracing green and sustainable financing in accordance with Article 13 of the Paris Climate Agreement. It provides real-time information on Côte d'Ivoire's financial needs, the funding secured, and the remaining resources to be mobilized to achieve the NDC objectives, both in the mitigation and adaptation components.

The implementation of these mechanisms has enabled Côte d'Ivoire to mobilize a budget of $2,425 million for climate financing between 2015 and 2022, of which more than 88% comes from public funds and 11% from the private sector (Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et de la Transition Ecologique: *Rapport national sur l'action climatique* - Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition: *National Report on the Evaluation of Climate Action*), 2024). In 2023, Côte d'Ivoire spent more than $597 million on actions to combat climate change. In 2024, the country mobilized 1,800 billion FCFA, or $3.6 billion, to finance 530 green projects. Thus, Côte d'Ivoire benefited from $10 million in support from the Green Fund for the implementation of PROMIRE projects. UN-Habitat also supported Côte d'Ivoire with $7 million from the Adaptation Fund to finance coastal adaptation measures. Similarly, the Green Climate Fund, through the World Food Programme, provided $10 million to Côte d'Ivo-

ire as part of the Women's Adaptation project in the Poro region in the North (Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et de la Transition Ecologique: *Rapport national sur l'action climatique* - Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition: *National Report on the Evaluation of Climate Action*, 2024). Despite the efforts made by Côte d'Ivoire, some aspects are hindering the national transition to carbon neutrality.

Structuring climate governance in Côte d'Ivoire

For several years, the State of Côte d'Ivoire has been striving to structure climate governance by strengthening the legal and institutional framework. With the environment at the heart of the issue, the State updated the Forestry Code in 2019 to adapt it to the new requirements of the fight against climate change. This new code establishes six (06) new provisions, such as the plurality of actors (private sector, local authorities, in particular Regional Councils and rural communities), the ownership of trees and forests in favor of legal entities and individuals who have preserved a natural forest and trees outside the forest, the concept of agro-forest (a space defined and delimited by a regulatory text in the private forest domain of the State and in which agricultural plantations and forest trees coexist). This provision directly involves the private sector, local communities and local authorities in the protection of the forestry sector, the driving force in the fight against global warming. Similarly, the environmental code was revised in 2023 to take into account the issue of climate change. Furthermore, the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development was reorganized with the concept of Ecological Transition in order to ensure the overall coordination of all the structures created and attached to it.

This is the National Environment Agency (ANDE) responsible for reviewing Environmental and Social Impact Studies, the National Commission for the Fight against Climate Change (CNLCC). Placed under the supervision of the Prime Minister, the CNLCC is defined as a reference body for consultation and coordination on climate change issues at the national and international level and for supporting the search for funding. It is made up of three (03) bodies, namely the Steering Committee, the Executive Secretariat and the working groups, composed of focal points from key sectoral ministries. The Committee meets twice a year in ordinary session and as many times as necessary in extraordinary session.

In addition, there is the Carbon Market Office (BMC), attached to the MINEDDTE as a one-stop shop for the implementation of the overall framework for Côte d'Ivoire's participation in carbon mechanisms. The BMC is composed of a Supervisory Council (all sectoral ministries) and a Technical Secretariat. It ensures the daily management of carbon mechanism implementation activities, in accordance with the procedures manual approved by order of the Minister of the Environment. The MINEDDTE, through the BMC, has established a procedures manual applicable to activities eligible under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and the voluntary carbon market. There is also the Directorate of International Cooperation and Funding Mobilization (DCIMF), under the supervision of the MINEDDTE, whose main mission is to seek funding opportunities for action both nationally and internationally, in close collaboration with the CNLCC and other structures.

Beyond these structures, it is worth mentioning the REDD+ mechanism, which is a system for reducing greenhouse gas emissions linked to deforestation and forest degradation. It supports its policy of deforestation-free agriculture and payment for environmental services (PES) through sustainable management projects and increased carbon storage.

Thus, these different structures ensure the steering of the national policy to combat climate change in a concerted and participatory manner. Key sectoral ministries, such as the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Water and Forests, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Sanitation, the National Commission of the Global Environment Facility (CN-GEF) and the Société

d'Exploitation, de Développement Aéroportuaire, Aéronautique et Météorologique en Côte d'Ivoire (Airport, Aviation and Meteorological Exploitation and Development Company in Côte d'Ivoire) (SODEXAM), local authorities and the private sector have focal points within the CNLCC. This led to the adoption by the Council of Ministers of a draft law on climate change which provides for the creation of a National Climate Agency and the National Fund for the Environment and Sustainable Development (FNEDD) whose missions will be known upon the promulgation of the climate law in Côte d'Ivoire.

THE CHALLENGES OF THE NATIONAL TRANSITION TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

Since the Paris Agreement in 2015, Côte d'Ivoire has made significant progress in combating climate change and transitioning to carbon neutrality. However, enormous challenges stand in the way of an effective transition to carbon neutrality. These challenges include the country's resilience to climate change, sustainable agriculture without deforestation, integrating gender into climate policies and programs, building the capacity of national stakeholders on climate mechanisms and the transition to carbon neutrality, and mobilizing climate finance.

Challenges of resilience of the country's socio-economic sectors in the face of climate change

According to the World Bank, Côte d'Ivoire is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. This vulnerability is a result of the structure of its economic fabric, which remains dependent on the deforestation-driven agricultural sector to this day. Indeed, the deforestation rate in Côte d'Ivoire is one of the highest in Africa, with more than 86% of natural forests lost. This deforestation dynamic linked to unsustainable agriculture intensifies climate change, negatively impacting the country's socioeconomic sectors. The 2024 climate report showed that Côte d'Ivoire's GDP will be reduced by 13% by 2050 due to the negative effects of climate change. This will prevent 1.63 million people from escaping poverty.

Similarly, the climate impact negatively affects all aspects of Ivorian society, including food security, public health, and the income of populations, especially the most vulnerable living in rural areas and women. The COP29 national report shows that the impact of climate change, particularly rising temperatures, could reach 4%, further exacerbating the poverty rate, which currently hovers around 70% in rural areas. These effects will lead to a 9% drop in GDP in the agricultural sector and a 26% drop in the fishing sector on the coast, with rising sea levels causing coastal erosion. However, the coast is home to 30% of the Ivorian population and 80% of economic activities. As for the agricultural sector, it produces 25% of GDP and employs 46% of the working population. In reality, climate change, marked by scarce rainfall, rising temperatures, and disruption of agricultural calendars, is leading to a decline in the production of cocoa, rubber, cotton, cashew nuts, and food and market garden crops. This could jeopardize 26% of income by 2050, and thus food security. These challenges require strengthening sustainable agricultural practices without deforestation, restoring forests and degraded lands, and agricultural practices adaptive to climate change, such as agroforestry, which involves the coexistence of forest species and agricultural plantations.

Challenges of integrating gender into climate policies and programs

Taking gender into account in actions to combat climate change remains one of the challenges facing Côte d'Ivoire, especially since this aspect is increasingly decisive in the mobilization of climate financing. According to the report on Gender and Climate Change in Côte d'Ivoire by the United Nations Development Programme in 2019, the blockage of this aspect is linked to a lack of mastery of the concept of Gender in relation to climate. This is seen in a tendency to consider the concept of gender exclusively

towards women, the theoretical nature of official texts on gender without any real application and a low availability of updated data on gender and climate at the national level. Côte d'Ivoire therefore needs to guarantee an inclusive and equitable approach to gender, by integrating the perspectives of marginalized groups in all climate actions (United Nations Development Programme, 2019).

Challenges of capacity building of national actors on climate mechanisms

To implement mitigation and adaptation strategies developed in the case of the revision of the NDCs (30.41%) by 2030, Côte d'Ivoire intends to take up the challenge of building the capacities of national stakeholders, including local authorities. Indeed, the conclusions of the first Forum on Carbon Markets in West Africa, held on February 23 and 24, 2025, at the Pullman Abidjan-Plateau Hotel, revealed the importance of improving the understanding of national stakeholders of the issue of climate change, the challenges of the transition to carbon neutrality and the mechanisms of the carbon market. Unlocking this aspect would make it possible to territorialize the fight against climate change through local authorities, civil society, young people, women and the private sector. Indeed, the legal and regulatory framework aimed at governing carbon credit payment mechanisms remains poorly understood at the national level, in particular the variation in the price of carbon credits and the process of calculating credits. The effectiveness of climate action therefore requires additional efforts on the part of the State in terms of deploying climate investments and strengthening the capacities of national actors in order to make climate governance structures operational.

Challenges related to the climate action financing system

To facilitate the search for climate financing, the State of Côte d'Ivoire has implemented strategies, including the 300 mitigation and adaptation projects formulated in the MINEDDTD project portfolio, 53 of which have completed feasibility studies and 10 projects that have obtained financing. The effective implementation of Côte d'Ivoire's new NDCs requires the mobilization of 13,000 billion CFA francs, or 22 billion dollars. The country has been able to mobilize 22% of the financing, or 1.5 billion euros or 1,000 billion CFA francs. As a result, 78% of the needs for mobilizing climate financing remain uncovered for the financing of 43 mitigation and adaptation projects (Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et de la Transition Ecologique Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition : National Report on the Evaluation of Climate Action in Côte d'Ivoire), 2024). To achieve this, the support of international climate finance, the increase in the capitalization of climate funds, namely the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the disbursement for countries like Côte d'Ivoire is strongly expected.

Challenges of developing renewable energy in Côte d'Ivoire

Increasing the share of renewable energy in the energy mix remains one of the fundamental challenges of the transition to carbon neutrality. Indeed, the use of biomass energy (firewood, charcoal, plant waste) represents more than 2/3 of the total energy consumption of Ivorian households, or 85 to 92% of the population. There is also a strong predominance of fossil fuel sources such as natural gas for electricity needs, which exposes the sector to risks of price fluctuations and fuel shortages (Ministère des Mines, du Pétrole et de l'Energie, (Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Energy), 2016). Thus, Côte d'Ivoire's vision is to abandon natural gas fuel to focus on clean energy in order to converge towards a low-carbon economic model. As a result, the country plans to increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix by 45% by 2030.

CONCLUSION

Since Côte d'Ivoire ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016, numerous actions have been undertaken to effectively combat the effects of climate change. Thus, this report on the assessment of national perspectives on climate action in Côte d'Ivoire highlights the efforts already undertaken and the achievements in the transition to climate-resilient development. However, considerable challenges remain, both financially, technically and institutionally. Furthermore, these important issues call for continued strengthening of national capacities, increased resource mobilization, and greater synergy between public, private, community actors, and technical and financial development partners. This is the condition for the country to achieve its objectives set under the Paris Agreement.

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