

Article: Virtual workshop for WAEMU member states' experts on carbon pricing

In meeting their climate change commitments, a growing number of jurisdictions have started to consider economic instruments like carbon pricing. In this regard, and acting on behalf of its member states, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA in French) in partnership with the West African Alliance on Carbon markets and Climate finance request support from RCC Lome to strengthen member states capacities on instruments that can be explored both at national and regional level to curb emissions along the goals defined in the Paris Agreement.

The West African Development Bank (BOAD in French), host partner of the RCC, in its climate finance strategy, aims at supporting its member states in mobilizing resources to implement their NDCs. The RCC strategy aims at increasing its support to parties as well as regional organisations under its jurisdiction to explore collaborative instruments in the framework of the Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action (CiACA workstream). In line with both strategies a regional virtual consultation and capacity building workshop on carbon pricing was organized on 19th and 20th August 2020. In attendance were UNFCCC focal points, NDC coordinators, West Africa Alliance focal points from member states and representatives from regional organizations: BOAD and the UEMOA Commission.

In promoting peer learning, sessions were facilitated by El Hadji Mbaye Diagne, Vice-Chair of the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism and lead negotiator for the African Group on Article 6 as well as Ousmane Fall Sarr, coordinator of the West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and climate finance. The session also benefited from the expertise of the CiACA team in the implementation of carbon pricing in developing countries.

These two days virtual workshop was very engaging with 33 participants in attendance who showed much interest on the subject. They recommended that an exploratory study on the issue should be carried out at the regional level to better ascertain its implementation opportunity. A recommendation which also allow the coordinator of the Alliance to call on “a partnership with the Commission to work hand in hand to help the region in the exploration of carbon pricing instruments”.

In his closing remark, Mr. Christophe Deguenon, Director of Environment and water Resources of the Department of Agriculture, Water Resources and Environment, representing the Commission thanked all participants and organizations that supported the workshop and welcomed the ensuing recommendations in particular the one requesting the Commission to explore the possibilities of proceeding with a technical assessment that will address all the issues raised during the discussions at the workshop.