

Regional Collaboration Centre

Lomé
July 2021



Regional Collaboration Centre – Lomé

Promoting Climate Action in Western and Francophone Africa

Welcome to RCC Lomé July 2021 Newsletter

We are thrilled to bring you the latest newsletter from RCC Lomé. This provides a recent update on the Centre's activities as well as various resources and events scheduled that advance climate action and contribute to efforts to keep the world remain on track in tackling climate change.

The RCC Lomé Team

Interview with the UN Resident Coordinator in Togo



Mr. Damien Mama is the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) for Togo. He shares information about his role as UNRC, his view on climate change challenges in Togo and the support the UN system is providing to the country towards meeting the goals of the Paris agreement.

What roles can the UNRC play in climate action?

The role, as assigned by the UN Secretary General, is centered on leadership and coordination of operational activities for sustainable development. As Resident Coordinator, I lead the work of the UN Country Team, which consists of all the UN heads of

agencies, and that is the highest governing body of the UN in Togo.

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development is at the core of our work and climate change is among the top priorities of the UN in Togo. In this regard and to ensure a coherent approach, we have recently created a UN Togo Climate Change Joint Team with several relevant UN agencies involved. The objective of the joint team is to:

- Establish a coherent package of UN-supported activities that will provide the most effective support to Togo based on the UN's comparative advantages and identified gaps in national capacity;
- Promote complementarities, leverage existing technical capacities within the UN System, and create a knowledge hub that informs the UN country team action on climate change in Togo.

The joint team had an initial meeting and identified several priority areas for collaboration among the members which includes UNDP, FAO, UNEP, and the UNFCCC's Regional Collaboration Center in Lomé. I am confident about the transformative role that this joint team will have as we start the joint support to Togo on climate policy development and capacity building on climate negotiation processes, taking advantage of lessons learned from other countries in the region.

What are the challenges you perceive in Togo regarding climate change?

Togo is highly dependent on agriculture that employs 60% of the active population, which makes the country vulnerable to the effects of climate change. While Togo has made important progress in recent years, the country's capacity to predict the likelihood of extreme events and whether patterns remains weak. The main climate risks facing Togo are violent winds, coastal erosion, disruption and poor distribution of rains, with flooding and drought remaining the greatest threats. The country is conscious of these risks and has included them among the priorities of the national development plan.

The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UNFCCC is. How is the UN system supporting Togo to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement?

Several UN organizations are supporting Togo towards COP26.

For example, UNDP is supporting the country the preparation of national communications and biennial updates on climate change, the implementation and revision of NDCs, and climate finance resource mobilization.

In terms of youth engagement, UNFCCC's Regional Collaboration Center in Lome is working on establishing the Academy for Global Youth Leadership Empowerment (Africa AGYLE Hub) aimed at empowering and interconnecting young, responsible African citizens, advocates, and entrepreneurs able to drive Africa's emerging green, sustainable and climate-resilient future. The center also works with the West African Alliance on Carbon Market and Climate Finance to ensure that West African countries including Togo have the institutional capacity and support network for long-term engagement with carbon markets and climate finance under the Paris Agreement.

Additionally, the United Nations Environment Programme provides support to the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) to ensure that the continent speaks with one voice/common position during the COPs. The AGN is working with National Focal Points from all African countries (including Togo) to ensure that they are on the same page and have developed a guideline that is helping African countries to revise their NDCs.

At operational level, FAO has been working with the GEF to strengthen the resilience of local populations and coastal ecosystems to climate change.

Those are just a few examples of what the UN system is doing to support Togo in the area of climate change.

What are the next steps for climate action in Togo?

We are working together to come through this [COVID-19] pandemic, to build back better and to support climate action in Togo. Coordination, partnership, financing, and sustainability remain key. The UN Togo Climate Change Joint Team is an excellent platform that we will take full advantage of to support the national response to climate change related issues in a more coordinated manner.

RCCs Annual Report 2020 is launched



Amid the challenges of the 2020 COVID-19 crisis, the six UN Climate Change Regional Collaboration Centres around the world moved work to the virtual space and continued regional engagement to encourage climate action.

The accomplishments of the RCCs in 2020 show that the Centres have become an enabling force for global action and ambition on climate change.

This second edition of the RCC Annual Report outlines a broad range of RCC activities to address the climate crisis, funded from various sources and delivered at the request of Parties and donors. The Report highlights achievements by the RCCs in a challenging year and details engagement with a wide network of partners and stakeholders.

Read more on [UN Climate Change website](#)

[Download the full Report here](#)

UN Climate Change 2020 Annual Report is Out



2020 proved to be an immensely challenging year. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to unfold, all UNFCCC processes continued to move forward in 2020, albeit in virtual mode. The Secretariat continued to support Parties in developing their medium and long-term commitments to zero greenhouse gas emissions and in assessing the impact of national climate responses

Read more on [UN Climate Change website](https://unfccc.int/news/un-climate-change-2020-annual-report-is-out)

[Download the full Report here](#)

RCC Lomé and WAA strengthen West African States capacities on carbon pricing



The UN Climate Change Regional Collaboration Center (RCC Lomé) and the West

African Alliance on Carbon Market and Climate Finance (WAA) in collaboration with the Governments of Guinea Bissau and Guinea, supported by the Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action (Ci-ACA) held trainings workshops in two West African countries to facilitate their consideration of carbon pricing.

You can read more [RCC Lomé webpage](#)

Stakeholders consultation in Senegal under the consultancy study on carbon tax



The West African country submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution at the beginning of the year year 2021 and in an effort to safeguard the global commons, the country identified carbon pricing as one of the instruments to consider in reducing GHG emissions.

More information on the ongoing study [here](#)

**In partnership with IOM, UN Climate Change and UNEP,
UNOWAS launches UN Regional Working Group on Climate
Change, Environment, Security and Development in West Africa**



On Thursday 10 June, the United Nations office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), in partnership with the West and Central Africa Office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Regional Collaboration Center of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), launched a UN Regional Working Group on climate change, environment, security and development in West Africa.

Read more on [UNOWAS website](#)

West Africa Needs-based Finance (NBF) project validation workshop

After a [virtual meeting](#) introducing the project to ECOWAS countries, a technical assessment and Climate Finance Access and Mobilization Strategy were developed by ECOWAS countries supported by a consultant. The documents were reviewed and validated in a virtual workshop 1-2 July 2021. Further information on the workshop is available [here](#).

NDC UPDATES FROM THE REGION

NDCs submission update from the region and upcoming deadline for final NDC Synthesis Report

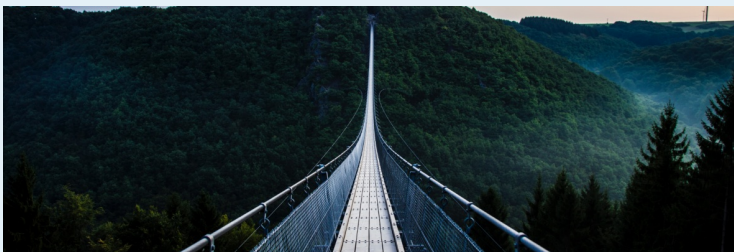
[Senegal](#), [Cabo Verde](#), [Guinea](#), [Nigeria](#) and [Sierra Leone](#) have recently submitted their new, updated or interim NDCs.

Countries are still encouraged to submit their new or updated NDCs after 30 July 2021

The UN Climate Change Secretariat is planning to publish the final version of the NDC Synthesis Report based on the NDC recorded in the [interim NDC registry](#) as of this closing date.

The Report will be prepared in advance of the [pre-COP meeting](#) scheduled for 30 September - 2 October 2021

Marrakech Partnership Global Climate Action Pathways



The **[Climate Action Pathways](#)** set out sectoral visions for achieving a 1.5°C, climate resilient world by 2050 and identify change levers and impact areas to transform various sectors of the economy.

The Climate Action Pathways are being updated now!

The **[High-level Champions](#)** and the **[Marrakech partnership for Global Climate Action](#)** have specifically focused on strengthening cross-cutting aspects such as just transition, gender-responsiveness, resilience and circular economy. This month also sees the launch of the Finance Pathway, the latest tool to accelerate climate action with a focus on private finance.

If you are keen to track the action, give the **[Global Climate Action Portal](#)** a visit, which displays the action cities, regions, companies, investors, and other organizations have taken.

Upcoming events

Please follow this **[link](#)** which provides a list of events and meetings to be held in the coming days/months.

Find out more about our work to facilitate climate action in Western and Francophone Africa at the RCC Lomé webpage

[Visit our website](#)

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