

Workshop in Accra, Ghana, 24-25 February

The Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) Lomé, in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana, ran a consultative workshop to facilitate the West African country's consideration of collaborative instruments to put a price on carbon.

The event is part of the RCC strategy to intensify its support to parties to explore collaborative instruments in West Africa in the framework of the Collaborative Instruments for Ambitious Climate Action (CiACA) workstream. The workshop brought together a broad range of stakeholders including government, civil society and private sector representatives for a day and a half in Accra, on 24 and 25 February.

The workshop was offered in response to a request from the Ghanaian government for support in strengthening the government's capacity to explore alternative instruments for achieving their commitments under the Paris Agreement. While West Africa is the sub-region with the highest number of countries looking into the adoption of carbon pricing instruments in Africa, Ghana is the second country to be targeted under the CiACA support (the first was Senegal). The second phase of CiACA started in June 2019 and has been focusing on three main pillars: "deepening" which builds on recommendations from the first phase; "fostering regional collaboration" and "expanding to new countries", as in the case of Ghana.

In this context, and in order to promote peer learning, sessions were facilitated by experts, including El Hadji Mbaye Diagne, Vice-Chair of the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism, lead negotiator for the African Group on Article 6 and lead author of a carbon pricing study conducted in Senegal last year.

The engaging discussions at the workshop led to a positive supporting statement by Ghana's Deputy Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Patricia Appiagyei, on the concluding day of the workshop.

"Economic instruments are the most effective way to provide the economy with a signal that a transformation is underway. We have an immense opportunity to make choices that will allow our economy to be sustainable while increasing access to energy and promoting equal growth and opportunities to all" said Patricia Appiagyei in the morning session.

RCC Lomé is a partnership between UN Climate Change and the West African Development Bank (BOAD). Moubarak Moulaika is the Regional Team Lead (mmoulaika@unfccc.int).

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