ECOWAS COMMISSION
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Short version
of the ECOWAS

Regional Climate Strategy (RCS)

JUNE 2022

The full version of the ECOWAS Regional Climate Strategy and its 2022-2030 action plan are available here: *https://climatestrategy.ecowas.int*

Disclaimer

This document is a short version of the ECOWAS Regional Climate Strategy which aims to extract the essence of the strategy, and does not represent the exhaustiveness of the official content as adopted. The analytical original parts relating to (i) diagnosis of regional public policies, (ii) diagnosis of sectoral impacts of climate change and (iii) diagnosis of greenhouse gas emissions, have been considerably reduced.

All these elements are available in the full version, together with all the bibliographical references and the related figures and diagrams.

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Expertise France provided technical assistance and facilitation leading to the validation of this document for the benefit of ECOWAS and its Member States.

The Regional Climate Strategy and its action plan were validated by the Ministers of Environment of ECOWAS Member States at the Specialised Ministerial Technical Committee on the Environment, chaired by the Minister of Ghana, held in Accra on 29 April 2022.

The ECOWAS Regional Climate Strategy and its 2030 Action Plan were then formally adopted by the Eighty-eighth Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Statutory Ministers held from 30 June to 1 July 2022 in Accra, Ghana.

Financial Partner

Technical Partner

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Foreword

This Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regional climate strategy was adopted at the 61th Ordinary Session of the Conference of the Heads of State and Governments of the ECOWAS, held in **Accra, on July, 3rd of 2022.** On the one hand it is the result of a long consultation process with the institutions, departments and specialist agencies of ECOWAS, Member States (MS) and specialist regional institutions, and on the other hand it is the culmination of several years of intervention and action by ECOWAS in the fight against climate change.

Currently representing just 1.8% of world greenhouse gas (GHG)[1] emissions, ECOWAS countries' contribution to global warming is minimal. However, the African continent is at the centre of the climate change challenges of this first half of the 21st century. According to the most alarming scenarios, West Africa will experience, by 2060, a temperature increase of +2.3 °C, or a warming of +0.6 °C per decade. Precipitation will be more erratic and will lead to an increase in the frequency and intensity of the extreme weather conditions already being experienced in our region: floods, increased variability of rainfall, coastal and soil erosion in river basins, extremely long pockets of drought among other corollaries, with dramatic human and economic consequences for all economic sectors and for the most vulnerable sections of the population, particularly, women, young people and the elderly. Faced with the seriousness of the impacts to come, "Acting Together", within the framework of regional solidarity, is an absolute necessity to allow our region to reduce its vulnerability and to face, collectively, the risks induced by climate change, which, by definition, know no borders. Thus, ECOWAS, building on its past experience of implementing the *strategic programme for reducing vulnerability and adapting to climate change,* financed by Sweden, is strengthening its framework of action by systematising the integration and consideration of the impacts of climate change in the defining of its actions and directives.

Furthermore, our region is still broadly characterised by resource-intensive economic models that contribute to the deterioration of our environment, with, among other things, low-productivity extensive agriculture, advanced-stage damage to forests and soils, expensive and inefficient transport systems and an energy sector that continues to grow. While these economies still play only a limited role in the growth of global GHG emissions, the prospect of strong economic and demographic growth in the coming decades call for the exploration of low-carbon trajectories: between 1990 and 2016, GHG emissions increased by 39%, compared with global average growth of 4-9%. Our region must seize the opportunity for low-carbon growth trajectories by mobilising every possible financial and technological resource, domestic or international: the technical solutions exist and we have everything to gain! This is the spirit of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that the ECOWAS Member States have submitted as their commitments to meet the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement. For ten years now it has also been the objective of ECOWAS, through various major policy frameworks: the renewable energy policy, the energy efficiency policy, the Forestry Convergence Plan, etc. The challenge now is to blend the other intervention frameworks with these mitigation objectives that have already been established at national and regional level.

It is in this context that the ECOWAS Commission and its partners have drawn up this Regional Climate Strategy (RCS) in order to consolidate and harmonise a framework of action for the fight against climate change in the ECOWAS region, taking into account both the adaptation and mitigation dimensions and in alignment with the Paris Climate Agreement 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The vision informing it is that of a West African community that is resilient to the effects of climate change and that has managed to seize the associated economic opportunities in favour of long-term sustainable development. This vision is consistent with the 2050 Vision of ECOWAS which aims at establishing *"a community of people that are fully integrated within a peaceful and prosperous region, supported by strong institutions, respecting the fundamental freedoms and working towards an inclusive sustainable development."*

In this regard ECOWAS and its partners commit to supporting the countries in the community in achieving low-carbon development that is resilient to climate change.

The drafting of this strategy document has had a variety of technical and financial support. I should like in particular to close this foreword by expressing my appreciation and thanks to the European Union (EU) for its financial support and to Expertise France for its technical support in the framework of Expertise France's Global Climate Change Alliance + in West Africa (GCCA+WA) project.

[1] CCNUCC (2020) : Technical Assessment of Climate Finance in West African Community (https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/J0008_UNFCCC_NBF_TA_Climate_Finance_WA_v11%5B40%5D.pdf)

PART 1

Context, approach and vision

for a fair and ambitious regional climate strategy

1. General Context

Regional context

Under the effect of past, present and future GHG emissions, changes in the climatic system observed in the course of recent decades will continue throughout the 21st century and beyond. Despite the uncertainties, it would appear that the scenarios with high GHG emissions will involve more extreme events: floods, droughts and heat waves. The consequences of climate variability and climate change in the medium and long term may be disastrous for most socio-economic sectors of the ECOWAS region. The occurrence of extreme events will increase the likelihood of severe impacts which will translate into falling agricultural yields, falling surface and underground water resources, lower hydroelectric production and threats to fisheries, coastal zones and marine ecosystems, cities and infrastructures, among others. Without major interventions to strengthen the ability of the main socio-economic sectors to adapt, there is a risk that these changes will seriously compromising populations' food security and means of subsistence.

According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), the impact of climate change on the continent could reach US$50 billion a year by 2040, with a further 30% shrinkage in GDP between now and 2050. Furthermore, according to a recent study carried out by the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) for ECOWAS, estimates foresee a reduction in GDP of 3.7% or 11.7% by 2050 in the low and high warming scenarios respectively. The economic losses stemming from climate impacts will come mainly from agriculture and infrastructures (transport, energy, buildings, etc.). Coastal countries are likely to suffer the most significant economic effects as regards infrastructures. Beyond these economic impacts, the health and social impacts could be very significant whether they be gradual changes (increase in average temperature with, for example, impacts on food security due to a fall in agricultural yields or on exceeding the lethal heat threshold in the city) or extreme events (floods). Women and young people often are and will continue to be more vulnerable because of their roles as determined by society and culture. The high degree of climate sensitivity of critical sectors, combined with low levels of ability to adapt contribute to making the West African region one of the most vulnerable in the world. It has been identified as one of the world's climate hot spots. And so it is that nine (9) of the world's thirty (30) most vulnerable countries form part of the ECOWAS-CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel) region according to the Global Adaptation Index.

Consequently, adaptation actions and strategies are the most appropriate pathways to enable the populations, public and private bodies and governments of the ECOWAS countries to prepare themselves and to respond in a coordinated way to the impacts of climate change.

Past, recent and future climate trends in the region

Recent scientific research into climate clearly indicates trends in climate variability and climate change which in West Africa are characterised by the generalised and continuous rise in temperatures, the increased variability of rainfall and the frequency, intensity, spatial extent and duration of extreme weather events.

Climate variability is deeply rooted in West African societies. The 1950s and 1960s were marked by exceptionally heavy rainfall. This was followed by a sharp global fall in volumes of annual precipitation, culminating in the great droughts of the 1970s and 1980s in the Sahel and the more humid countries of the Gulf of Guinea. This dry period is illustrated by a southward shift in annual isohyets (with declines in rainfall ranging from 20% in the south of the Sahel to more than 50% in the north) leading to a process of unprecedented aridification of the Sahel.

Since the mid-1990s, coinciding with the intensification of global warming, West Africa has seen increased interannual variability of rainfall. According to the scientific work of the Centre regional AGRHYMET/CILSS Regional Centre rainfall patterns are now characterised by violent alternation between wet and dry years which seems to be amplified by climate change. During this period, the possibility of a return to a wet period has given rise to controversy. Signs of resumption of the rains have been shown to exist, but with regional disparities on an annual scale. This new pattern of rainfall variability that has emerged since the 1990s has translated into the combined occurrence of several extreme rainfall events such as dry periods and late starts and early ends to rains. Also, despite the decline in the number of rainfall events, there has been an increase in the intensity and volumes of rainfall. This situation explains the episodes of heavy rains and recurring floods seen in the course of the past few years in West Africa such as in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2017, 2019 and 2020. The intensification of the hydrological cycle under the effect of the high temperatures could be leading to greater evaporation and more intense precipitation.

Climate models are not entirely in agreement as to whether rainfall will increase or decrease in the future. Using a set of simulations from the 5th phase of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP5) experiments, researchers have shown that in spite of the great uncertainties, around 80% of the models are in agreement on aridification of around 20% in the western part of the Sahel, while 75% of the models forecast a wetter eastern Sahel. The projections also point towards a climate with less frequent, more intermittent but more intense rainfall events in medium to high GHG emissions' scenarios. A potential change in the seasonality of the Sahelian rains is also very likely, with a later start and the possibility of a break in the middle of the rainy season. This change is likely to occur between now and the end of the 21st century.

As regards temperatures, the global mean surface temperature (GMST) in the period 2011-2020 was +1.09°C higher than in the period 1850-1900 according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (2021). West Africa, along with the other regions of Africa, warmed faster than the global average (land and oceans combined). The thirty-year (30) warming trend for the period 1991-2020 (with a trend of 0.3 °C per decade) was higher than that of the period 1961-1990 (0.2 °C per decade) and considerably higher than that of the period 1931-1960 (0.03 °C per decade). In disturbing the climate, humans have also provoked changes in the frequency of extreme heat waves since 1950, and this frequency has doubled since the 1980s. A study on the spatial distribution, duration, intensity and frequency of heat waves in West Africa in the months of April to June shows that the regions with a continental Sudano-Sahelian climate are seeing heat waves that are intense, long (>10 consecutive days) and frequent (from 20% to 30% of days). These phenomena are however less frequent and of shorter duration in the coastal zones.

Temperature projections for the 21st century for Africa suggest that land temperatures, particularly those in dry regions, will increase more rapidly than the global average temperature. Warming trends for West Africa in scenarios SSP2-4.5 and SSP5-8.5 are estimated as being 0.24°C and 0.6°C per decade respectively. The most probable short- and long-term warming forecasts (2030-2060 and 2070-2090 respectively) are 1.1-1.8°C and 1.9-3.3°C for the SSP2-4.5 scenario and 1.5-2.3 °C and 3.3-5.9°C for the SSP5-8.5 scenario.

These climate changes and the expected impacts on natural and human systems underscore the urgency of taking immediate and ambitious steps to confront climate risks.

Situation as regards GHG emissions in the region

The region's GHG emissions represents about 1.8% of global emissions, whereas it is home to 5% of the world's population. Likewise, emissions per inhabitant in 2018 are among the lowest in the world, namely 0.7 metric tons of CO2 equivalent (teqCO2) per inhabitant in 2017, as against a world average of 4.8 metric tons. However, between 1990 and 2018, GHG emissions of States in the region increased by 43% due to their demographic and economic growth, an increase comparable with the global growth in emissions of 49% in the same period.

Based on 2018 data reported by the Member States (MS) in their revised NDCs, net GHG emissions came mainly from the Energy, Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sectors. The combined emissions from these sectors account for 85% of total regional GHG emissions. The energy sector accounts for 69%, AFOLU for 16%, followed by the waste and industrial processes and product use (IPPU) sectors which each contribute 10% of total regional emissions. Net GHG emissions (in 2018) are diversely distributed among the MS, with a predominance of emissions from Nigeria (63%), Ivory Coast (17%), Ghana (10%), Burkina Faso (13%), Sierra Leone (11%), Guinea (7%), Niger (6%), Togo (4%), Senegal (3%), Benin (3%) and finally Guinea Bissau (2%), Gambia (1%), Liberia (1%) and Cape Verde (0.11%).

These data, coupled with challenges linked to access to and cost of energy, clearly indicate an opportunity to launch the legitimate long-term development aspirations of the region's countries on a low GHG emissions trajectory in order to stimulate economic transformation and to create employment and wealth in innovative sectors.

The West African states in concert with global efforts to combat climate change

Sectors prioritised in the NDCs (2021) of Member States for mitigation

	OBJECTIVES			SECTORAL REDUCTION POTENTIAL								
COUNTRIES	Unconditional	Conditional	Global	Electricity production	Biomass	Tertiary	Residential	Industry	Transport	Agriculture	Forests and other land uses	Waste
Bénin	V	V		V		V	V		V	V	V	V
Burkina Faso	V	V		V	V	V	V		V	V	V	V
Cap Vert	V	V		V		V	V		V		V	
Côte d'Ivoire	V	V		V		V	V	V	V	V		V
Gambie	V	V		V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Ghana	V	V		V		V	V	V	V		V Forestry	V
Guinée	V	V		V				V	V		V	V
Guinée-Bissau	V	V		V		V	V			V	V	V
Liberia	V	V		V			V	V	V	V	V Forestry	V
Mali			V	V			V	V	V	V	V Forestry	V
Niger				V		V	V		V	V	V	
Nigeria	V	V		V		V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Sénégal	V	V		V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V Forestry	V
Sierra Leone	V	V		V		V	V	V	V	V	V	V
Togo	V	V		V			V	V	V	V	V	V

Objective non specified

Identified mitigation actions but reduction potential not defined

Sectors prioritised in the NDCs (2021) of Member States for adaptation

	Agriculture & livestock	Ocean, fisheries & coastal zone	Water & sanitation	Forestry	Health	Housing, infrastructure & construction	Biodiversity & environment	Energy	Transport	Spacial planning	Risk management	Tourism & trade	Waste
Bénin													
Burkina Faso													
Cap Vert													
Côte d'Ivoire													
Gambie													
Ghana													
Guinée-Bissau													
Liberia													
Mali													
Mauritanie													
Niger													
Nigeria													
Rép. de Guinée													
Sénégal													
Sierra Leone													
Tchad													
Togo													
TOTAL	17	12	11	10	8	7	7	7	4	4	4	4	1

From the ECOWEP to the Regional Climate Strategy: a gradual participatory process

2008

- Adoption of the ECOWEP, the 1st ECOWAS regional environmental policy
- First regional dialogue on climate change in October 2008 in Cotonou

2010

Adoption of the ECOWAS strategic programme on vulnerability reduction and adaptation to climate change

2013

Adoption of the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy (PERC) and the ECOWAS Energy Efficiency Policy (EEP) which clearly mention climate change

2015

- Adoption of the Framework for Action and the Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture in West Africa
- ECOWAS, CILSS and UEMOA announced strong common political ambitions, and the environment ministers of ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS member states signed a joint communiqué before COP21
- COP21, the birth of the Paris Agreement: the 15 ECOWAS Member States presented their CPDN, then ratified the Paris Agreement and adopted their NDCs.

2016

Adoption of the 2025 Strategic Orientation Framework of ECOWAP, ECOWAS regional agricultural policy, which partly integrates climate change in particular in connection with the CSA

2019

Lomé Regional Strategic Workshop on Climate Action: the first step towards the current Regional Climate Strategy: ECOWAS Member states called for the development of the first ECOWAS Regional Climate Strategy, by the Commission through a final communiqué

2021

- Establishment of an interdepartmental steering committee for the RCS process within the ECOWAS Commission which met 3 times in 2021 (April, June, September)
- (July) regional stakeholder consultation workshop (member states, civil society, regional institutions, technical and financial partners) to validate the vision, objectives and sectoral coverage and orientations

2022

- 2 final meetings of the Commission's interdepartmental committee (February, April)
- Technical validation of the ECOWAS RCS by the technical segment of national experts, then approval by the Specialised Ministerial Technical Committee on Environment (SMTC)
- Adoption of the ECOWAS RCS at the 61st Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Conference of Heads of State and Government (July 2022) or the 88th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers

2. Vision, general and specific objectives
of ecowas' regional climate strategy

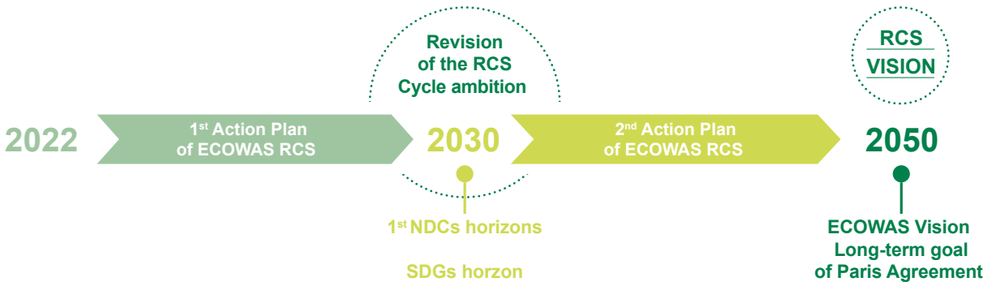
Vision

The vision of ECOWAS' regional climate strategy is in the same line, calling for a **community that is resilient to the effects and impacts of climate change and that has managed to seize the associated economic opportunities in favour of long-term, low-carbon, sustainable development.**

With this vision, the RCS contributes to:

- ✓ The achievement of the Paris Agreement goals,
- ✓ The implementation of the African Union climate change strategy for the period 2022-2032 (in line with the AU Agenda 2063)
- ✓ The achievement of the ECOWAS Vision 2050 *("a fully integrated community of peoples in a peaceful, prosperous region with strong institutions and respect for fundamental freedoms and working towards inclusive and sustainable development")*
- ✓ The achievement of SDG 13 "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts"
- ✓ The realization of the seven objectives of the Sendai Framework for reducing disaster risks.

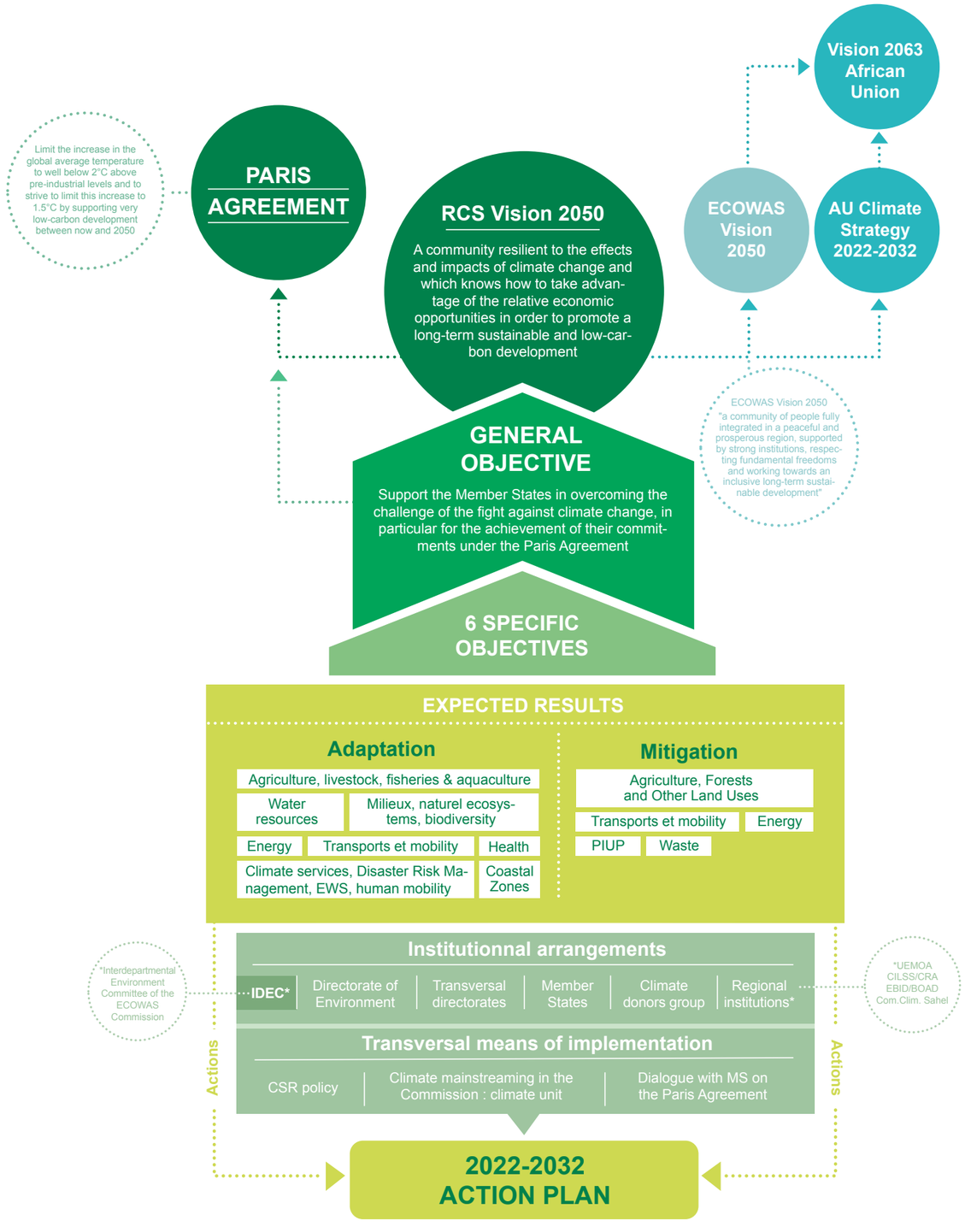
Therefore the ECOWAS' regional climate strategy aligns its community actions and means of intervention in the areas within its responsibility and competence by virtue of the revised 1993 Treaty with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, in perfect consistency with, and supported by, the African Union's 2022-2032 Climate Change Strategy and 2063 Agenda.



With this document, ECOWAS is formulating its first regional climate strategy in order to set regional mitigation and adaptation objectives for 2030, which is the deadline adopted by all its Member States to meet the commitments of their first NDCs, and also to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. ECOWAS is motivated by a spirit of continuous improvement, in accordance with the principle of progressive ambition (the "ratchet mechanism") established by the Paris Agreement and the need to establish objectives aligned with scientific knowledge. Therefore, this regional climate strategy at the 2030 horizon is a first milestone in ECOWAS' contribution to the fight against climate change. It will have to be revised to increase the region's level of ambition by 2050 in line with the objectives of ECOWAS' Vision 2050, while taking into account the commitments made by its Member States in their next NDCs as well as the results of the first global stocktakes of the Paris Agreement.

1 Context, approach and vision

for a fair and ambitious regional climate strategy



The general objective

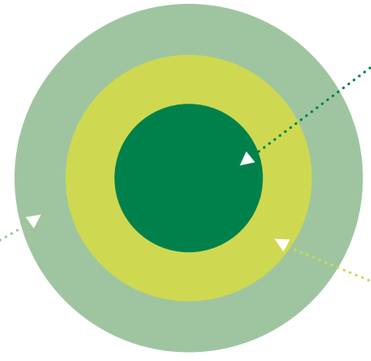
The general objective of ECOWAS' regional climate strategy is to support the Member States in overcoming the challenge of the fight against climate change, in particular for the achievement of their commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Specific strategic objectives

This general objective breaks down into six specific objectives:

- **SO1. Ensure that the regional policy framework is compatible and consistent with the global objectives of the Paris Agreement.**
- **SO2. Develop the ability to anticipate and to take informed decisions to manage current and future climate risks.**
- **SO3. Encourage an institutional and organisational paradigm shift regarding climate change.**
- **SO4. Build the capacities of ECOWAS and its Member States for the implementation of policies and actions to combat climate change.**
- **SO5. Strengthen cooperation and solidarity among Member States vis-à-vis climate change.**
- **SO6. Promote new approaches to mobilising internal and external financial resources.**

Fields of action



Institutional level

"Social responsibility of the Commission as an institution/organisation"
"CSR policy

Support of ECOWAS to Member States' actions

Progressive improvement in the ambition of states to fight climate change through ECOWAS guidelines and regional dialogue on the implementation of the Paris Agreement

ECOWAS area of competence

Improve the ECOWAS intervention framework for mitigation and adaptation by systematically integrating them into public policies and standards, but also into ECOWAS-led projects.

PART 2

2 Towards a region that is resilient

to the impacts and vulnerabilities linked to climate change

1. Agriculture, livestock farming, fisheries and aquaculture

Agriculture

Reduction of the yields of rain-fed crops: the latest studies confirm the projections of lower yields for the majority of food crops, from now until 2050, the results converge towards global reductions in average yields from 12% to 30% (millet, sorghum, maize, rice, groundnuts, cowpeas) **and reduction of the yields for cash crops** as well (cotton, cocoa, cashew).

Livestock farming

The livestock sector is still largely dominated by the pastoral and transhumant system, and is therefore highly dependent on rainfall and, consequently, the performance and strategies of agropastoralists are directly affected by the high variability of rainfall in time and space. Changes in route and timing (earlier or later departures) are already being observed in the region, bringing pastoral communities further south in particular and potentially causing conflicts in these new transhumance areas.

Fisheries and aquaculture

Deterioration of living and growth conditions for fish : the alteration of the physical, chemical and biological processes of ecosystems, especially freshwater (environmental change linked to floods, reduced rainfall, higher temperatures, salinization, proliferation of parasites and plants, emergence of trophic interactions, reduced reproduction capacities, etc.).

Overall decrease in production (fisheries and aquaculture) and scarcity of available resources, particularly due to the reduction in the number of species that are adapted to such changes (reduced biodiversity) in both marine and river ecosystems and inland waters.

RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE RCS:

- **R1.A.** The strategic and policy framework for regional agricultural action is becoming resilient to climate change and taking account of gender-differentiated vulnerability
- **R2.A.** The promotion of climate-smart agriculture, including agro-ecological practices, is supported
- **R3.A.** The resilience of pastoralism to climate change is strengthened and conflicts mitigated
- **R4.A.** Food crises linked to climate change are better anticipated and managed and the regional food storage system is strengthened as a whole
- **R5.A.** The promotion of fisheries and aquaculture systems that are resilient and less vulnerable to climate change is being supported (see RE 6.1 of the CSDD PAD)

2. Energy

As far as energy is concerned, it is the hydroelectric sector that will suffer the impacts of climate change most directly. Hydroelectric power currently accounts for 17% of Africa's electricity generation on average, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). This share could potentially increase to more than 23% in 2040, if the efforts announced "towards a clean energy transition and universal access to energy" meet with success. All the same, the risks from climate change and the energy sector's vulnerabilities to them are still not being taken into account sufficiently by the hydroelectric sector in the region, in a context in which power outages can amount to 80 hours a month. While Member States envisage the growing exploitation of the region's great hydroelectric potential, with the States' very high degree of interdependence in terms of access to water in the region, climate change could seriously affect the sector, as highlighted by WASCAL, showing clear and marked flow reduction trends in the Gambia and Senegal river basins.

The reduced flow of the rivers and increased evaporation due to climate change could constitute a serious threat for hydroelectricity; increasing water offtakes in the sections upstream of the dams for various activities such as irrigation and mining use can compromise hydroelectric production, even in a context of increased rainfall.

Furthermore, climate change could affect the electricity transmission networks, requiring investments in order to study them in a context of high temperatures and more frequent extreme events (storms, gales, thunderstorms).

RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE RCS:

R1.E. The regional strategic and policy framework for energy is adapted to the impacts induced by climate change

R2.E. The impacts of climate change on the supply of electricity are limited

3. Milieux, natural ecosystems and biodiversity

Situation des émissions de gaz à effet de serre dans la région

The landscapes of West Africa are composed of scattered mountains, areas of highland, hilly landscapes but also plains, coastal forests and mangroves.

The different types of forest ecosystems in West Africa are home to a wide range of remarkable but also highly vulnerable native flora and fauna and constitute an essential source of fuel, food and means of subsistence for millions of people.

From 1975 to 2018 forested areas in West Africa declined from 2,156,416 km² (0.8 million square miles) to 1,475,292 km² (0.6 million square miles) which represents a reduction of 681,124 km² (31.6%) in 43 years or an average of 15,840 km² (0.73%) or 1,584,000 hectares (612 square miles) per year. The reduction in forest cover, which is mainly due to human pressure, is exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which make the forests more vulnerable. For example, during the same period, agricultural areas (areas of crops, irrigated crops, lowland and flood recession crops and previously fallow land turned over to oil palm cultivation) have increased almost threefold (an increase of 852,084 km² or 85.2 million hectares).

As well as deforestation and forest degradation, biodiversity, wetlands and protected areas are being affected by climate change, and some protected areas are more vulnerable than others to its impacts. A significant number of West African species (including amphibians, birds, freshwater fish, mammals and reptiles) have been identified as being vulnerable to climate change based on their specific biological traits.

RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE RCS:

R1.F. The resilience of natural ecosystems, particularly forests, to the impacts of climate change has been strengthened and the biodiversity to which they are home is protected

R2.F. The West Africa regional observatory of natural resources of the Fouta-Djalon Massif has been strengthened and allows rigorous and coordinated monitoring of the main natural resources of the region taking into account climate change impacts

R3.F. The development of ecotourism is favoured at the regional level and specific support is given to Member States for the development of their ecotourism strategy integrating climate change.

4. Water resources

West Africa is relatively well endowed with water resources, with more than a trillion cubic metres of fresh water renewed each year through the region's normal hydrological cycle. However, supply is unevenly distributed and relatively inaccessible due to underdeveloped facilities. Furthermore, the water resources are mainly cross-border, which creates significant management challenges.

Based on climate projections, total flows of water in the region are likely to diminish by between 20% and 40% between now and 2050.

In the coastal regions of West Africa, significant and in some cases very significant depletions are forecast: for example for the Afram Plains area in the sedimentary Southern Volta basin in Ghana, the forecasts show decreases in the replenishment of subterranean water of 12.5% and 25% from now until 2030 and 2050 respectively.

In addition to these issues of available quantity, the combination of the effect of climate change, population growth and other anthropogenic actions will make water quality more problematic in the future and will contribute to impacting migration dynamics in the region.

Lastly, one of the major constraints on water governance in West Africa is the lack of knowledge of the current status and the trend of this resource affecting availability and quality and in particular how these factors are interrelated with uses, climate variability and climate change.

RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE RCS:

- **R1.RE.** Knowledge of water resources and the impacts of climate change has been successfully increased in the context of the Regional Water Observatory
- **R2.RE.** The operationalisation of integrated water resource management, including the impacts of climate change at the regional level has been reinforced and the Member States are being supported in their IWRM processes
- **R3.RE.** Synergies with the risk and disaster management sector have been maximised, particularly as regards the risk of floods, taking account of the current and future impact of climate change
- **R4.RE.** Institutional dialogue at regional level with the various basin operators (ABN, ABV, OMVG and OMVS) and regional institutions (Agrhymet, WASCAL), as well as universities and research centres, has been strengthened.

5. Transport and mobility

At the regional level, the majority of cross-border road infrastructures, apart from the analyses and assessment carried out in the context of feasibility and technical design studies, are neither big enough nor well enough maintained to be able to withstand the rigours of climate change, and this will lead to the accelerated deterioration of infrastructures, accidents and interruptions to the flow of traffic, leading in turn to heavy financial if not indeed human losses.

The economic consequences are reflected not only in the significant rise in expenditure on maintenance and repair, but also in the losses in trade flows, and the rises in the price of goods, regardless of the type of transport infrastructures. From 2005 to 2020, damage caused to human settlements and infrastructures by flooding in Africa was estimated at more than US$4.4 billion, East and West Africa being the regions hardest hit. Damage in four West African countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Togo) in 2017 was estimated at US$850 million from flooding from rains and US$555 million from river flooding.

RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE RCS

- **R1.T.** The strategic and policy framework of regional action concerning transport infrastructures is becoming progressively more resilient to climate change
- **R2.T.** Climate change resilience measures in the transport infrastructure sector within Member States are promoted with a view to their application

6. Coastal zones

The West African coast extends from Mauritania to Benin, a total length of about 10,000 kilometres. For several decades now many parts of the coast have seen accelerated degradation due to natural erosion and human factors (urban and population pressure, removal of sand, etc.). A study produced by the World Bank estimates that the environmental deterioration of the coastal zones of Benin, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Togo cost US$3.8 billion or 5.3% of the combined GDP of these four countries in 2017. Lastly, extreme events may lead to coastal flooding, generating significant damage to infrastructures, accelerated coastal erosion and fatalities.

The West African coast is very low-lying (less than 10 metres above sea level) in many parts.

Map of low-lying coastal zones in West Africa (USAID, 2014)

However, the rise in the sea level also represents a significant threat for the future of the coastal zones of the region and is associated with various coastline hazards such as ocean waves, flooding of low-lying areas, the erosion of beaches and damage to infrastructures and to coastal ecosystems as well as the salinization of soil.

In West Africa, the sea level is expected to rise by 0.26 metres by 2050 and 0.47 metres by 2100 according to the RCP 4.5 scenario. In the RCP 8.5 scenario, the rise is 0.30 metres by 2050 and between 0.52 and 0.98 metres by 2100. However, it should be noted that these estimates are very imprecise in the case of West Africa due to the lack of data. An increase in excess of the world average is nonetheless expected.

The projected annual average variations in wave height in scenario RCP 4.5 compared with the period 1981-2005 show an increase of more than 50% for certain coastal sections of Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. A smaller increase is observed for the coasts of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana; and a reduction is observed along the coasts of Benin and Togo.

Thus, according to the West Africa Coastal Areas Management Programme (WACA), in Senegal, by 2080, three quarters of the shoreline will be exposed to a high risk of erosion, as opposed to one quarter currently. Furthermore, the risk of flooding due to storms at sea, which is already very high (more than half the shoreline is at high risk), is likely to apply to two thirds of the littoral by 2080.

RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE RCS:

- **R1. ZC.** Knowledge of evaluation of the impact of the rise in sea levels on the West African coast and on extreme events and their consequences by 2050 has improved (in collaboration with ORLOA)
- **R2. ZC.** A regional governance framework based on the ICZM for a coastal zone that is resilient to climate change has been drawn up

7. Climate services, disaster risk management, early warning systems and human mobility

Even though 70% of all disasters in the ECOWAS region are caused by extreme meteorological and climatic phenomena, many West African countries still do not have sufficient meteorological and hydrological capabilities to be able to collect, process and disseminate climate information and early warnings to vulnerable communities and the various planners. The needs for investment in this field have been estimated at US$324.5 million (of which US$290 million for Member States and US$34.5 million for supporting regional institutions).

In 2020, in ECOWAS countries, more than 620,000 new internally displaced persons were recorded, linked to disasters, mainly floods and storms. By 2050, climate factors could force up to 32 million people to move within their countries in West Africa. For example, between 0.3 and 2.2 million inhabitants on the coast of West Africa could be forced to leave the five-kilometre coastal strip by 2050 due to rising sea levels, exacerbated by storm surges. Sources of climate migration could emerge from 2030 and continue to intensify through to 2050 in all countries of West Africa.

RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE RCS:

Climate services

R1. SC/GRC : The implementation of the Hydromet Initiative as the strategic framework for climate services at ECOWAS level has been completed

R2. SC/GRC : A collaboration framework for the various regional institutions with competence in the areas of climate services and disaster risk management and the relevant sectoral departments of ECOWAS has been institutionalised

R3. SC/GRC : The modernisation of the infrastructures of the NMHS via investments in the equipment necessary to put in place a robust observation network for the region (preparation of an investment plan) are coordinated and provided as formulated by the Hydromet Initiative

R4. SC/GRC : The durability of the digital library of good adaptation and mitigation practices in the agricultural sector (in the process of being prepared in the context of the GCCA+WA) is assured

Disaster risk management and early warning system

R5. SC/GRC : ECOWAS' next action plan under the risk and disaster management strategy integrates adaptation more forcibly and favours synergies between adaptation and DRM, organised around the four priorities of the Sendai framework

R6. SC/GRC : Coordination among the regional institutions is assured, to favour the setting up of multi-risk operational EWSs at the level of each Member State.

Human mobility in the context of disaster, climate change and environmental degradation

R7. SC/GRC : Regional cooperation on human mobility in the context of climate change is strengthened by building on existing dialogue structures (notably MIDWA) and a legal framework is defined

R8. SC/GRC : The implementation of pillar 7 of the ECOWAS migration policy is supported

R9. SC/GRC : The integration of human mobility in national adaptation plans, nationally determined contributions and national communications of Member States is ensured

8. Health

Climate change is already affecting the health of tens of millions of people in West Africa by exposing them to extreme meteorological conditions (droughts, floods, heatwaves, etc.). The Region is experiencing an increase in climate-related emergencies, with 25% more climate-related events reported between 2011 and 2021, compared to the previous decade. Higher-than-normal mortality rates, most often linked to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, have been recorded in Burkina Faso and Ghana during heatwaves. Extreme events linked to floods also cause loss and damage to human establishments and infrastructures and limit access to essential health services and to water for drinking and sanitation.

The risks of malnutrition, diarrhoeal diseases such as cholera and mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue fever will probably increase as temperatures rise and rainfall becomes more variable.

However, knowledge of the links between climate change and its impacts on human health is still limited, which reduces the pertinence of the adaptive responses put in place.

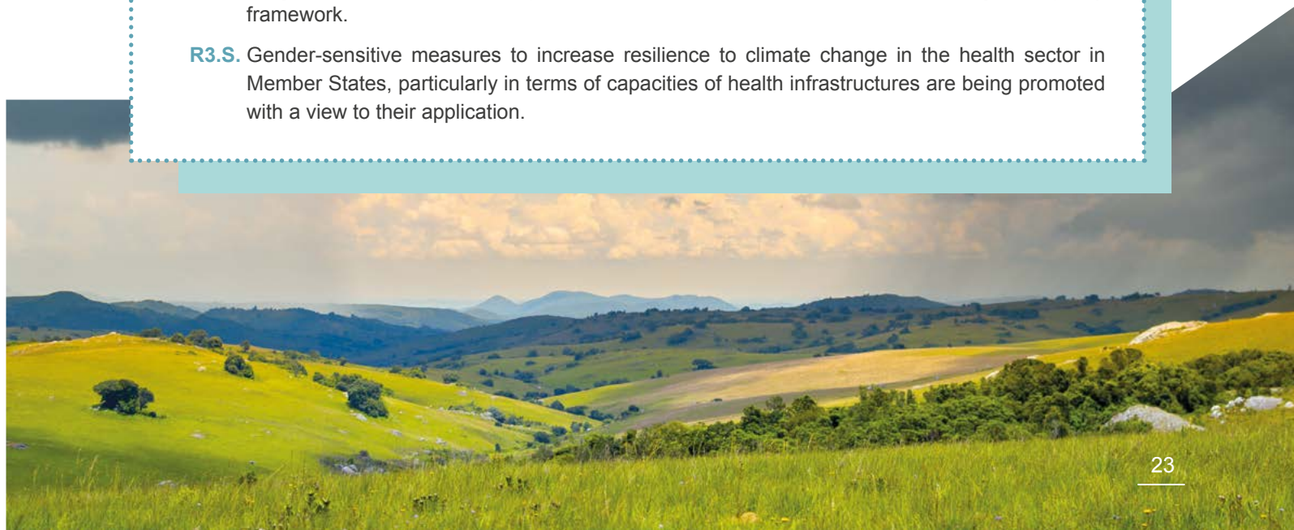
Climate change is still hardly taken into account in ECOWAS health policies, even though the health sector is considered particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It is also a sector named as priority in eight of the seventeen (17) NDCs of the ECOWAS plus CILSS countries. Also, the RCS may act as a catalyst in support of initiatives launched by the WAHO to improve the integration of adaptation in this sector.

RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE RCS:

R1.S. A strategic framework and regional action policy on health, resilient to climate change, have been developed, using the One Health approach.

R2.S. Knowledge of the impact of climate change on the health sector in West Africa and the means to mitigate its effects has been improved in line with the needs of the sector's strategic and policy framework.

R3.S. Gender-sensitive measures to increase resilience to climate change in the health sector in Member States, particularly in terms of capacities of health infrastructures are being promoted with a view to their application.



PART 3

3 Encourage low-carbon development trajectories and favour economic opportunities

1. Introduction

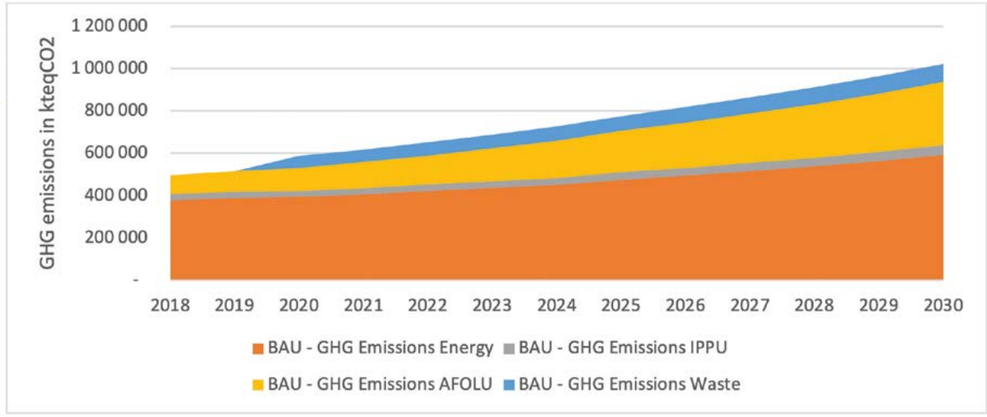
Overview of GHG emission mitigation commitments of ECOWAS Member States at the 2030 horizon in the context of the Paris Agreement

Participating in the mitigation efforts of the international community to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement regarding the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, all the countries of West Africa have expressed their commitments for 2030 via their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), updated or revised in 2020/2021 in order to make them more robust and ambitious, despite the low-level of their contribution to global GHG emissions both historically and currently.

GHG emissions at the regional level are constantly increasing overall but in fairly variable proportions depending on the circumstances of each particular West African country. Indeed, the region's GHG emissions have been estimated at 588,014 KteqCO_2 (thousands of metric tons of CO2 equivalent) in 2020, and are likely to reach 775,956 KteqCO_2 by 2025 and 1,023,435 KteqCO_2 by 2030 (according to the countries' latest projections in their NDCs, NCs or BURs), representing an increase of 74% between 2020 and 2030. The main sources of emissions are the energy sector, with an average share of 63% of total GHG emissions, followed by the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector with an average percentage of 23%, and in third place by the waste sector with an average share of 9% of the region's total GHG emissions. The figure hereunder shows the estimated projections for GHG emissions at the 2030 horizon of ECOWAS countries in the baseline scenario, commonly referred to as the "business as usual" (BAU) scenario.

Based on the commitments made by ECOWAS Member States in their revised NDCs, the scenario of conditional and unconditional mitigation measures would enable GHG emissions in 2030 to be reduced to 619,320 KteqCO_2, or 61% of the baseline emissions in 2030. A significant part of this potential reduction is however conditional upon the provision of international climate finance, since the unconditional mitigation objective is only 26% at the 2030 horizon in relation to the baseline scenario. This translates, in absolute terms for 2030, into emissions of 264,954 KteqCO_2. The unconditional objective will in any case require major efforts, particularly (I) to create favourable conditions for the implementation of the mitigation measures, as regards national sectoral policies, the legislative and regulatory system and the stimulation of investments, (II) to mobilise the financial resources and (III) to measure, monitor and report the results of the actions taken. The following figure illustrates the trajectories of GHG emissions in the two mitigation scenarios (conditional and unconditional) at the 2030 horizon for the ECOWAS Member States.

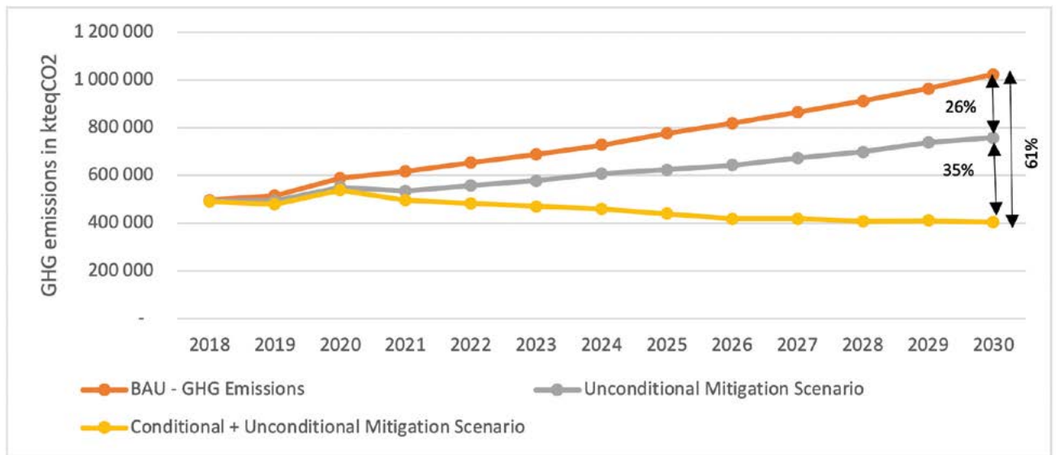
Breakdown by sector of ECOWAS Member States' GHG emissions in the baseline (BAU) scenario



3 Encourage low-carbon development

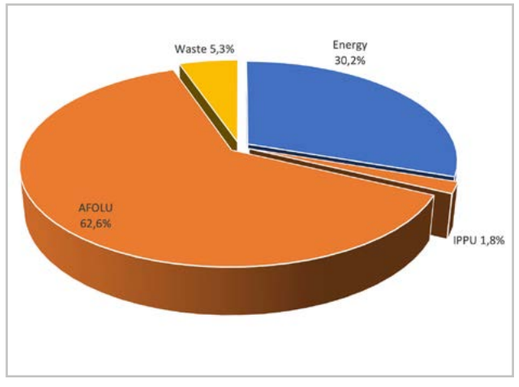
trajectories and favour economic opportunities

Trajectories of ECOWAS Member States' GHG emissions in the baseline, unconditional mitigation, and conditional mitigation scenarios



The following table presents the GHG emissions of the various sectors in the unconditional and conditional mitigation scenarios.

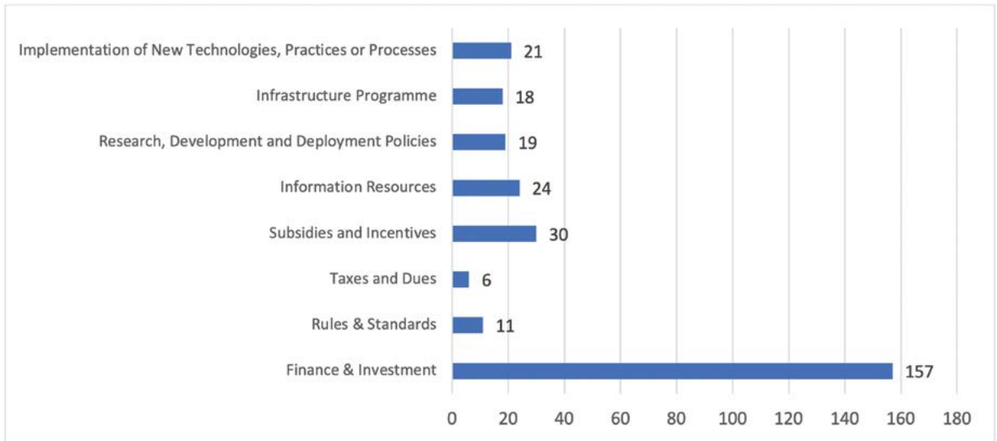
The majority of reductions in GHG emissions envisaged are linked to actions in the areas of forestry and agriculture by reducing the rate of deforestation, redoubling reforestation and planting efforts, improving the productivity of livestock farming, etc. This sector foresees a reduction of 63.6% or 393,662 KteqCO_2 in GHG emissions by 2030. The energy sector, and in particular the production of electricity, represents the second biggest source of reduction in emissions, (30% of the total reduction), and in third place is the waste sector with 5% of the total reduction of the ECOWAS region in 2030. The forecast contribution of the IPPU sector to the overall reduction is 1.8%.



Breakdown of the overall mitigation effort of ECOWAS Member States in the period 2020-2030

An analysis of the types of mitigation measures envisaged in the Member States' NDCs shows that more than half the mitigation actions are based on investment and financing, while 16% of them rely on grants and incentives

Types of mitigation actions envisaged in ECOWAS Member States' revised NDCs



In total, more than 280 mitigation measures are proposed in the revised NDCs by 2030. From the table above and the figures below, it can be seen that the majority of the measures are located in the energy sector (including the transport and building sector) with a share of 40%. Mitigation measures of the Financing and Investment type account for 50.7% of the total measures.

According to the Member States' revised NDCs, the financing requirement for implementing all the conditional and unconditional mitigation actions is estimated at nearly US$240 billion.

The ECOWAS Commission's contribution to these efforts through its mandate to bring about economic integration and the emergence of a strong regional market, is already significant and offers opportunities to promote a trade policy and to adopt standards and measures that support the orientation of national economies towards development trajectories that are more decarbonised than the baseline or "business as usual" scenario.

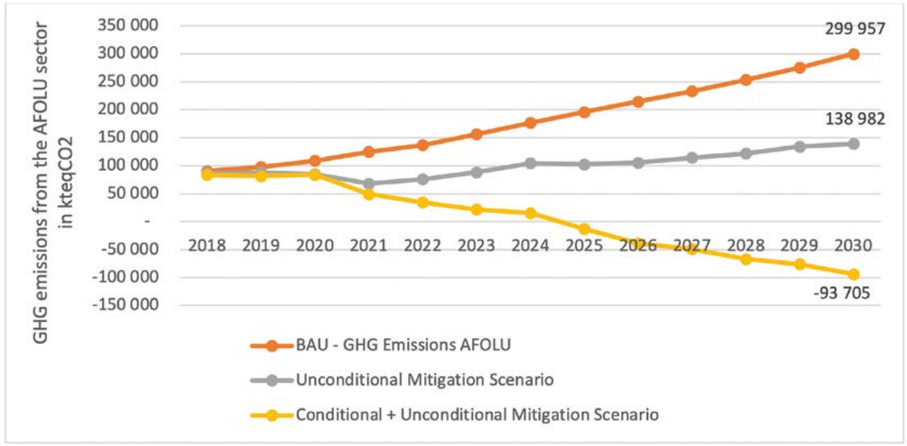
Nevertheless, additional priority axes must be pursued over the period 2022-2030 in order to support the achievement of ECOWAS' Vision 2050 and make the regional action framework consistent with the Paris Agreement as regards mitigation. Thus, these axes are distributed into four sectors under the Commission's mandate.

2. Agriculture, forestry and oher land uses (AFOLU)

From a climate point of view, and according to the projections for emissions produced by the activities of the AFOLU sector, these will increase by 175% (from 108,936 to 299,957 KteqCO_2) during the period 2020 to 2030. The agriculture sector is not a particularly significant emitter in itself, but is likely to become increasingly so, particularly in view of the different development policies for the sector in the various countries of the region.

In terms of reductions in GHG emissions of the AFOLU sector, the ECOWAS Member States' updated NDCs would allow the absorption of carbon estimated at 93,705 KteqCO_2 in 2030 in both the unconditional and conditional mitigation scenarios. These GHG emission sequestration sinks basically come from the forestry sector thanks to the implementation of reforestation projects and the fight against deforestation and land degradation.

Trends in ECOWAS Member States' AFOLU sector emissions in the mitigation scenario



Indeed, with an estimate of the average carbon stock per hectare in forest formations on a regional scale at 72 KteqCO_2, the loss of forest cover represents a source of emissions of 430,236 million KteqCO_2 per year, or almost 24% of the total emissions of the region. This constitutes a net source of emissions at the regional level. This loss of forest cover also has a significant and very worrying impact on biodiversity. Demand for timber and fuel wood continues to encourage logging activity and the deterioration of what remains of the primary forests, while slash-and-burn agriculture is fragmenting and isolating even secondary forest stands.

To guide its action, **ECOWAS is setting a regional indicative objective for reabsorbing this loss of forest cover of 0.73% per year from now to 2030.** We can estimate that the achievement of this objective will enable a reduction of 422 million KteqCO_2 from now to 2030, it being specified that the mitigation results obtained will be recorded by each Member State in line with the actions carried out in its territory. The ultimate objective is to return to the 1975 level of forest cover between now and 2050 (or 2,156,416 km²), through the implementation of the Forest Convergence Plan. That represents an annual target of 2,270,400 hectares of forest recovery (restoration, afforestation/reforestation, etc.).

RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE RCS:

Agriculture

R6.A. At the regional institutional level, agri-forestry-pastoral projects explicitly favouring the relative reduction of GHG emissions are prioritised

R7.A. Scientific and technical dialogue on the impact of agriculture on GHG emissions in the region is strengthened and encouraged

Forest and Other Land Use

R4.F. The sustainable management of forests and forest resources is being improved and forest cover increased

R5.F. Forestry and agricultural policies are better organised at regional and national level

R6.F. Investments in favour of the sustainable management of forest ecosystems in ECOWAS countries have been maintained

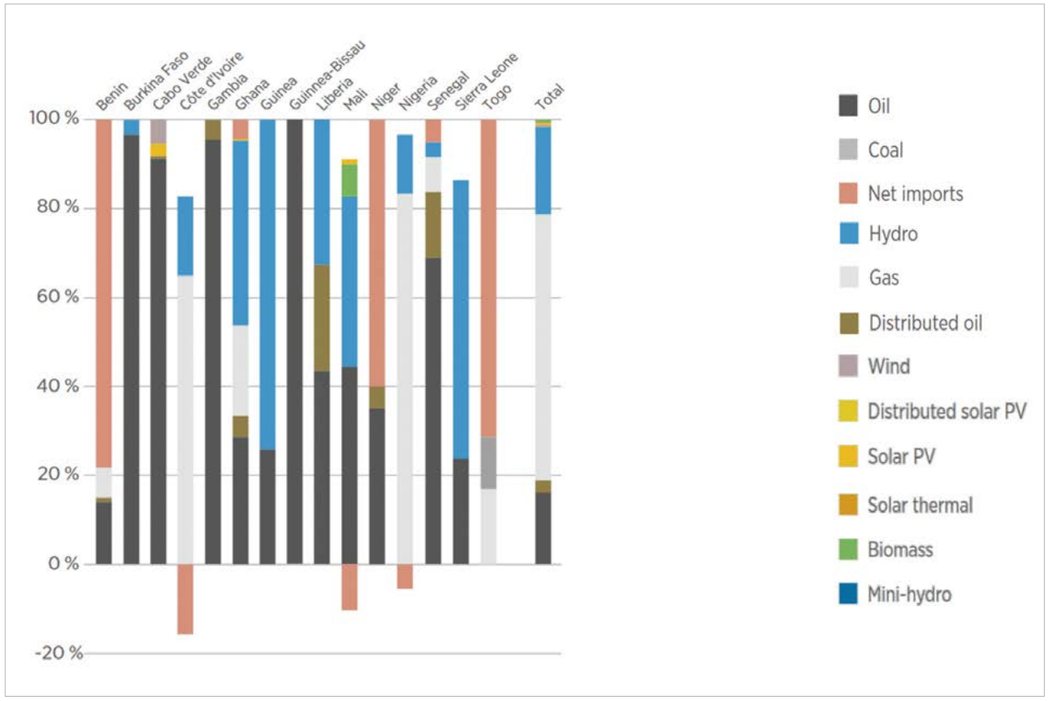
R7.F. The fight against land degradation in the ECOWAS countries is encouraged and supported

3. Energy

Energy accounts for almost a third of the region's GHG emissions; it is the main source of GHG emissions for several ECOWAS countries. Apart from the combustion of fossil fuels for transport, the main sub-sectors of greenhouse gas emissions are the use of biomass energy for cooking and heating and, to a lesser extent, electricity production. The ECOWAS zone is marked by very significant variations in the energy mix from one Member State to another, given the resources available locally, but also given the public policies already in place to promote energy efficiency and renewable energies.

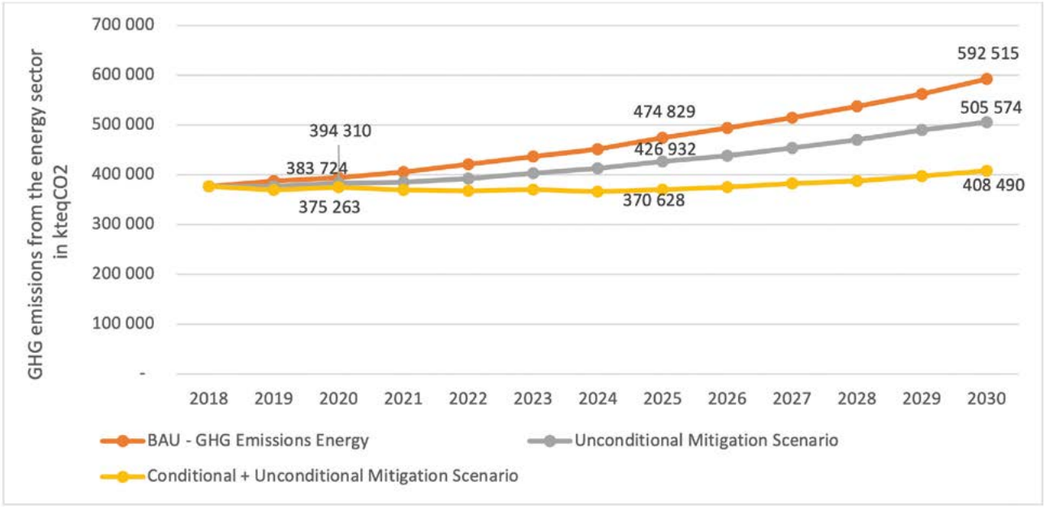
Thus, the energy consumption of certain countries of the region remains essentially based on biomass, in particular for cooking appliances, access to alternative fuels such as butane gas or electricity and to efficient cooking appliances still being minimal in most of the countries of the region.

Breakdown of electricity production by ECOWAS Member State in 2015



According to the reference scenarios communicated by ECOWAS Member States in their revised NDCs, GHG emissions are likely to increase to 592,515 KteqCO_2 in 2030, 50% more than in 2020. As regards mitigation, several actions are envisaged in order to reduce the GHG emissions of the energy sector, with an overall objective of 31.1% mitigation at the 2030 horizon, including an unconditional objective of 14.7%. The following figure shows the forecast trajectories of GHG emissions of the energy sector for the baseline and mitigation scenarios.

Trends in emissions of the energy sector in ECOWAS Member States in the baseline and mitigation scenarios



As far as electricity production is concerned, 80% of the mix emanates from fossil energies (natural gas and petroleum products for the most part), generating a cost per kilowatt hour which is particularly high (around twice the global average). Demand for electricity is likely to increase fourfold between 2015 and 2030 to meet the so far insufficiently met needs of urban and rural households, but also to meet the development needs of industries in a context of strong economic growth. The impacts of climate change, and in particular the marked rise in temperatures, and the rapid urbanisation of the region could contribute to an increase in air conditioning and cooling needs, in particular in the residential and tertiary sector. Investment choices made today therefore will set West Africa on the path to low-carbon and resilient economies, or not, particularly in terms of access to sustainable energy for all.

Furthermore the region remains very dependent on the external market for meeting its demand: in 2017, the region consumed 28.2 million metric tons of petrol and diesel, 85% of which was imported. In spite of the fact that West Africa has 30% of the confirmed oil and 30% of the confirmed natural gas reserves of Africa, the region remains very much exposed to the pricing volatility of fossil fuels and this is a heavy burden on the public expenditures and trade deficits of Member States. In addition, fuel subsidies account for around 30% of public expenditure in ECOWAS countries.

In 2020, ECOWAS adopted Directive C/DIR.2/9/2020, relating to the emission limits of gases and particles from the exhaust of light and heavy vehicles, two-wheelers, tricycles and quadricycles in the ECOWAS region, also setting a limit of the age of the vehicles to be imported at five years. To date, about four (4) countries have taken regulatory measures to comply with the said Directive on harmonised fuel specifications.

However, reducing dependence on this type of energy, by improving the energy efficiency of equipment, installations and systems but also by researching and developing innovative energies is also a priority for the region's development and stability.

RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE RCS:

- **R3.E.** A dynamic promoting thermal performance standards in buildings and industry taking account of climatic conditions and changes in West Africa is supported
- **R4.E.** The ambition of the NDCs and the regional energy policy are harmonised
- **R5.E.** The utilisation of alternative and cleaner fuels has increased
- **R6.E.** Member States are supported by regional institutions in the implementation of their mitigation objectives in the energy sector
- **R7.E.** Cooperation and technical and political dialogue between Member States in energy matters is encouraged and supported in order to speed up the achievement of the commitments

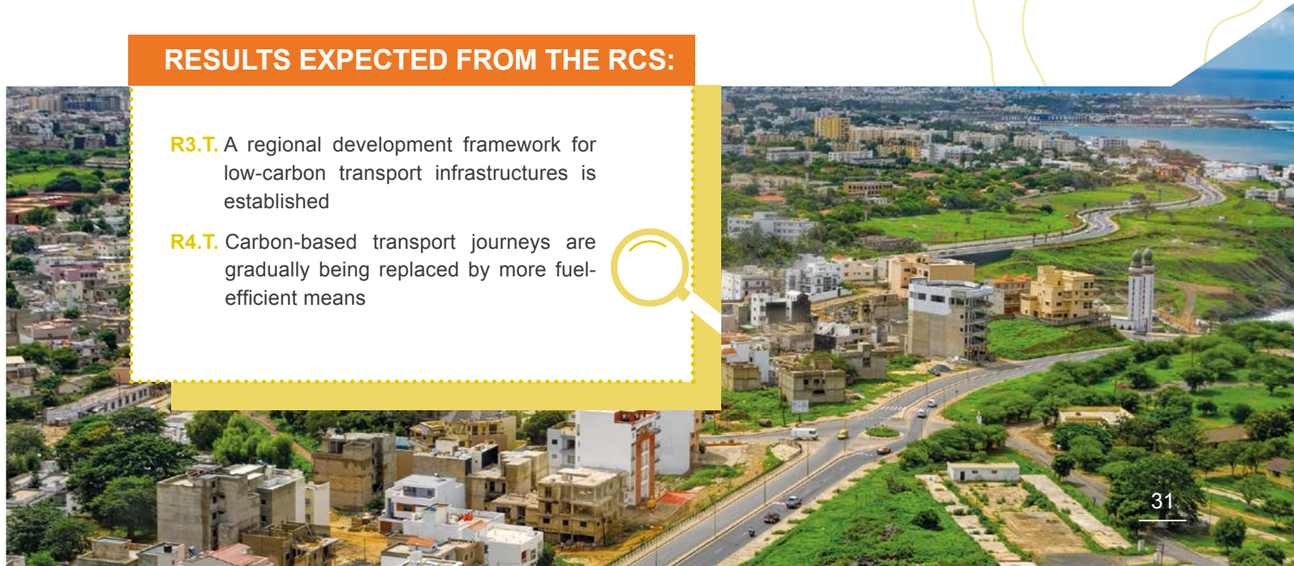
4. Transport and mobility

ECOWAS has put in place an ambitious transport programme aimed at facilitating the free circulation of persons, goods and services in the region. The air and rail sub-sectors have so far been under-exploited in the West African region, but efforts are being made to allow their rapid development. The railway sector for example has become the symbol of the determination to develop transport infrastructures in the ECOWAS region.

Indeed, the transport sector plays a key role in reducing GHG emissions: it accounts for nearly a third of emissions from fuel combustion in West Africa. Furthermore, the strong growth in the total number of vehicles on the road in West Africa, combined with rapid urbanisation, significant urban sprawl, limited public transport availability and widespread congestion due to the inadequacy and the state of the roads make travel in West African cities slow and expensive and generate losses of competitiveness for many economic sectors. Improving urban mobility while taking the needs and uses of the entire population into account has now become an economic and social imperative.

RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE RCS:

- **R3.T.** A regional development framework for low-carbon transport infrastructures is established
- **R4.T.** Carbon-based transport journeys are gradually being replaced by more fuel-efficient means

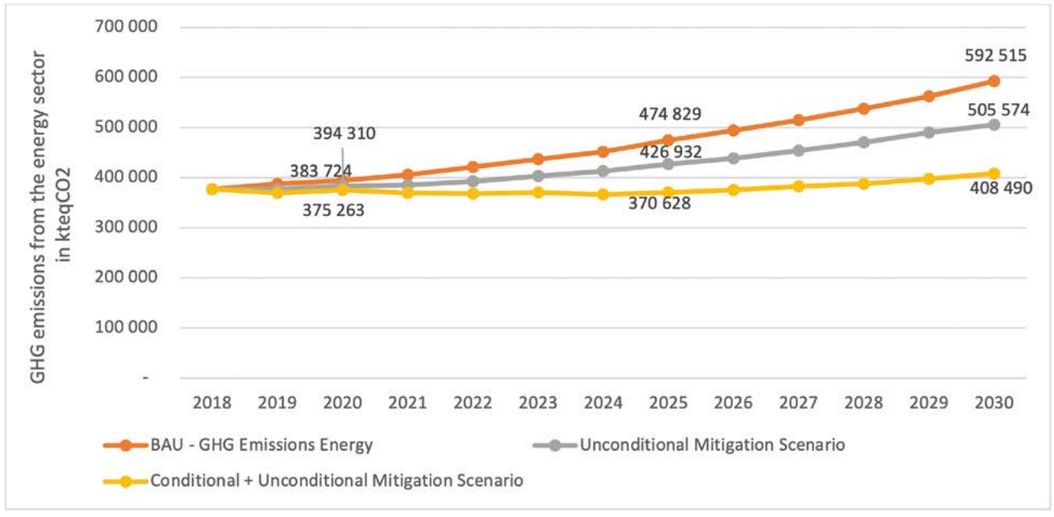


5. Industrial processes and product use (IPPU)

The region remains one of the least industrialised in the world, and this is reflected in the composition of its GHG emissions. Indeed, according to the Member States' revised NDCs, GHG emissions from the IPPU sector amounted to 29,469 KteqCO_2 and are likely to increase to 36,148 KteqCO_2 by 2025 and 45,320 KteqCO_2 by 2030. On average this represents just 5% of the region's GHG emissions. It should be noted however that GHG emissions from energy consumption by industry are counted in the energy sector.

Furthermore, the estimated mitigation efforts for this sector are limited compared with other sectors. It is important to point out that only six of the fifteen (15) Member States proposed mitigation actions in this sector: The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo. The global mitigation potential (unconditional and conditional) has been estimated at 11,441 KteqCO_2 in 2030, of which 4,448 KteqCO_2 are unconditional (see figure hereunder).

Trends in emissions of the IPPU sector in ECOWAS Member States in the baseline and mitigation scenarios



RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE RCS:

R1.P. A global approach to ensure low-carbon development of the IPPU area has been adopted and is supported.

R2.P. The updating/refining and large-scale application of new technologies to ensure sustainable industrial growth are supported.

6. Waste

Current production, consumption and development patterns in ECOWAS Member States are generating rapidly increasing quantities of waste, the management of which is insufficiently controlled. Waste is generally burnt in the open air or collected in bulk and transported to open dumps. The multiplicity of landfills and their inappropriate management methods lead to GHG emissions, particularly methane from fermentation and CO2 from burning.

Twelve ECOWAS Member States have identified the waste sector as a priority sector in their NDCs. On analysis, waste emissions account for 9% of the region's total GHG emissions, i.e. a total of 57,308.93 KteqCO^2 in 2020. On the other hand, emissions from this sector will be estimated at 68 987 KteqCO^2 in 2025, continuing to increase to reach 85 643 KteqCO^2 in 2030.

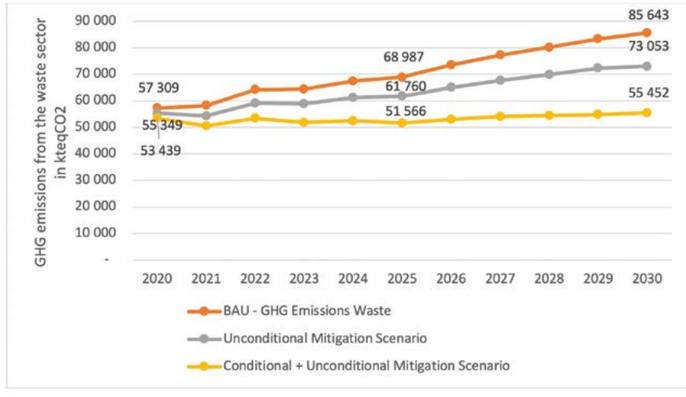
In terms of mitigation, a regional target has been estimated at 35.3% by 2030, i.e:

> **Unconditional contributions:** a 14.7% reduction in GHG emissions compared to the baseline scenario;

> **Conditional contributions:** a reduction of up to 20.6% of GHG emissions by 2030 compared to the baseline scenario.

The figure below illustrates the projected GHG emission trends of the waste sector for the baseline and mitigation scenarios.

Emission trajectories for the waste sector mitigation scenario



The figure also shows that mitigation efforts in this sector are expected to keep emissions close to the 2020 level in 2030 if the unconditional and conditional mitigation measures in the NDCs of the 12 Member States concerned are financed and implemented. However, the level of emissions will rise sharply by 2030 if only the unconditional measures are implemented (+32%), which confirms the need for international financing. In addition to the climate aspect, better waste management generates numerous co-benefits in terms of cleanliness, public health and environmental pollution.

RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE RCS :

R1.D. Regional waste management policies, strategies and programmes are reviewed or designed to promote GHG emission reductions from this sector

R2.D. Cooperation and technical and political dialogue between Member States on waste management are encouraged and supported to accelerate the achievement of national GHG reduction commitments

R3.D. The promotion of regional norms, guidelines and standards to guide efforts to reduce methane and carbon dioxide emissions from the waste sector is supported

PART 4

4 Institutional mechanism,

monitoring-assessment and transversal means of implementation

1. Institutional arrangements for implementation

The implementation of the RCS requires institutional arrangements in order to implement good climate governance within the ECOWAS Commission and in its relations with the Member States. The drivers of good climate governance are political will, integration capacity, decision-making based on reliable and shared information, the search for consistency and synergies between regional policies and national policies, and the rallying of all actors, public and private.

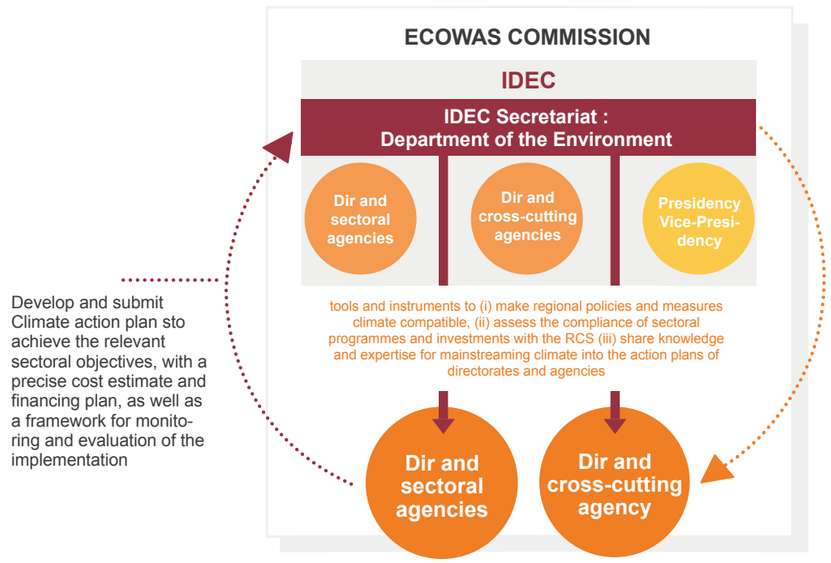
The governance of the RCS is based on the principle of consultation between stakeholders to promote the integration of considerations related to climate change and the coordinated formulation of programmes and measures, as part of a dynamic and continuous improvement approach. The key stakeholders are the ECOWAS Commission, the EBID, the Member States, civil society organisations and the private sector. Since they are involved in the financing and implementation, the regional technical cooperation organisations and the technical and financing partners also take part in the consultation.

The RCS constitutes the structuring framework for the ECOWAS Commission's climate action, respecting the prerogatives and powers of each party involved.

Political steering of the RCS in the ECOWAS Commission: the IDEC

Given the transversal nature of climate action and the need to ensure not just consistency but also synergies among sectoral policies on the one hand and between mitigation and adaptation measures on the other, the Commission is governed internally by the Interdepartmental Environment Committee (IDEC), which brings together all the Commission's departments, with the Department in charge of the environment acting as technical secretariat.

The IDEC is responsible for monitoring the key success factors and the integration of climate change considerations by the directorates and agencies and for the proper coordination of regional policies and measures for the implementation of the RCS.



Coordination of implementation and regional consultation

The Department in charge of the environment is responsible for coordinating the paradigm shift needed to implement the RCS. As such it is responsible for:

Within the Commission:

- Putting in place the consolidated monitoring and evaluation framework for the action plans of the directorates and agencies of the ECOWAS Commission, the data for which are expected by the Macro-economic Policy and Economic Research Department, and facilitating the transmission of the results obtained by each directorate and agency in the context of the monitoring and evaluation of the policies and measures to the Department in charge of Macro-economic Policy and Economic Research;
- Participate in the internal process of continuous improvement of the mechanisms of consultation and coordination of the implementation of the RCS, and identify recommendations on improvements to be made to these mechanisms in order to provide substance for the annual report shared with the IDEC and the Office of the Vice-President.
- Initiate and steer the examination at the half-way stage of the implementation of the RCS, in 2026, and the formal process of revision of the RCS after 2030 for the 2050 horizon.

Externally, the Department in charge of the environment:

- Puts in place a reporting system for the national inter-ministerial climate committees through the ECOWAS Member States' NDC focal points, aimed at:
  - gathering and taking into consideration their written comments on the proposals for policies and measures put forward by the Commission's directorates in order to implement the sectoral objectives and the transversal measures of the RCS;
  - presenting a biennial monitoring report on implementation to the Member States.
- Taking part in coordinating the Climate Donors Group in collaboration with the Directorate in charge of External Relations of the General Secretariat to the Office of the President.

Operational implementation: a shared responsibility

The sectoral directorates with mandates covering the sectors addressed in the RCS

Each of the Commission's agencies and directorates is responsible for the development of the regional programmes, policies and measures necessary in order to achieve the sectoral objectives and priorities within its sphere of competence in line with its national sectoral focal points. Always respecting the competences and prerogatives of the directorates. In this respect, they must establish an action plan integrating the considerations linked to climate change and implement the proposed priority actions for achieving the sectoral objectives that concern them, with a precise estimate of the costs and a plan for financing the policies and measures identified, as well as a framework for the monitoring-evaluation of the implementation (monitoring and impact indicators and the corresponding targets). These action plans are subject to an annual scheduling, the conformity of which to the RCS's objectives is analysed and approved by the Office of the Vice-President as part of its strategic planning mandate.

Transversal departments and directorates

Each transversal directorate of the Commission is responsible for ensuring the integration of the strategic orientations of the RCS in exercising its functions. The transversal directorates have an important role to play in this respect, as presented later.

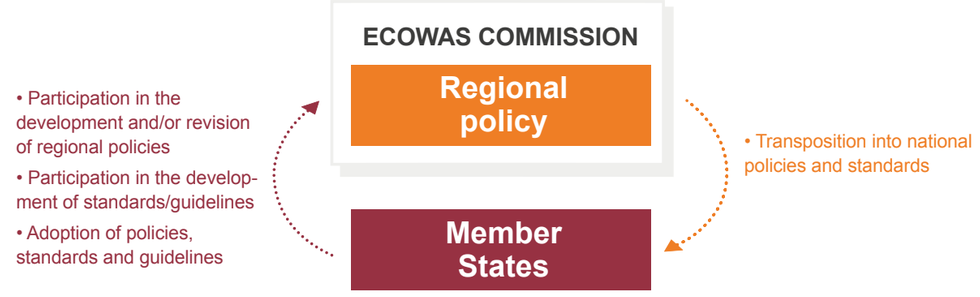
Member States

Member States participate in the implementation of the RCS through the transposition of regional policies and their normative instruments into national policies. To this end, they are in contact with the national actors impacted and involved in the implementation: public actors, civil society and the private sector.

Nevertheless, in a bottom-up approach, Member States also actively participate in the definition and revision of future regional policies and standards through coalitions or dialogue platforms allowing for the exchange of experiences between peers and the feedback of needs and national realities.

They also provide the ECOWAS Commission with relevant information for monitoring the implementation of the RCS, as well as data on the monitoring of climate finance needs and flows.

Member States, under their commitments under the Paris Agreement, are jointly responsible for ensuring that the RCS is in line with the Paris Agreement, and may refer the matter to the Commission during the biennial meetings on the implementation of the RCS.



The UEMOA Commission, in the context of meetings and work of the joint technical secretariat, which aims for consistency and convergence of strategies and policies of the two Commissions, relations between which must subsequently form part of the strategy of cooperation and convergence between UEMOA and ECOWAS which should lead to the alignment of the two regional organisations' specific objectives.

The Regional Climate Centre, operationalised by the Agrhymet Regional Centre, which, as per the Partnership Agreement of June 2020 between the ECOWAS Commission and the CILSS, performs: (i) the operational activities of meteorological and climate forecasts, (ii) the climate surveillance operational activities, (iii) the operational data services in support of long-term forecasting and the climate surveillance, (iv) the strengthening of the operational capabilities, (v) the management and dissemination of meteorological and climate-related information.

The ECOWAS Bank for Investment & Development (EBID) and the **West African Bank for Development** (WABD), which mobilise resources to facilitate achievement of Member States national climate commitments, and to finance the implementation of specific actions of the RCS.

The Climate Commission for the Sahel Region (CCRS) to create synergies in the coordination and monitoring of initiatives in the field of combating climate change together.

The Commission of the African Union, through its department in charge of agriculture, rural development of the blue economy and of the environment, and more precisely the climate directorate which steers African climate strategy, to make sure of its conforming to the continent's climate strategy and the contribution to the 2030 Agenda.

The West African scientific and technical bodies on climate which are partners of the ECOWAS Commission (CILSS, WASCAL) and take part in the implementation;

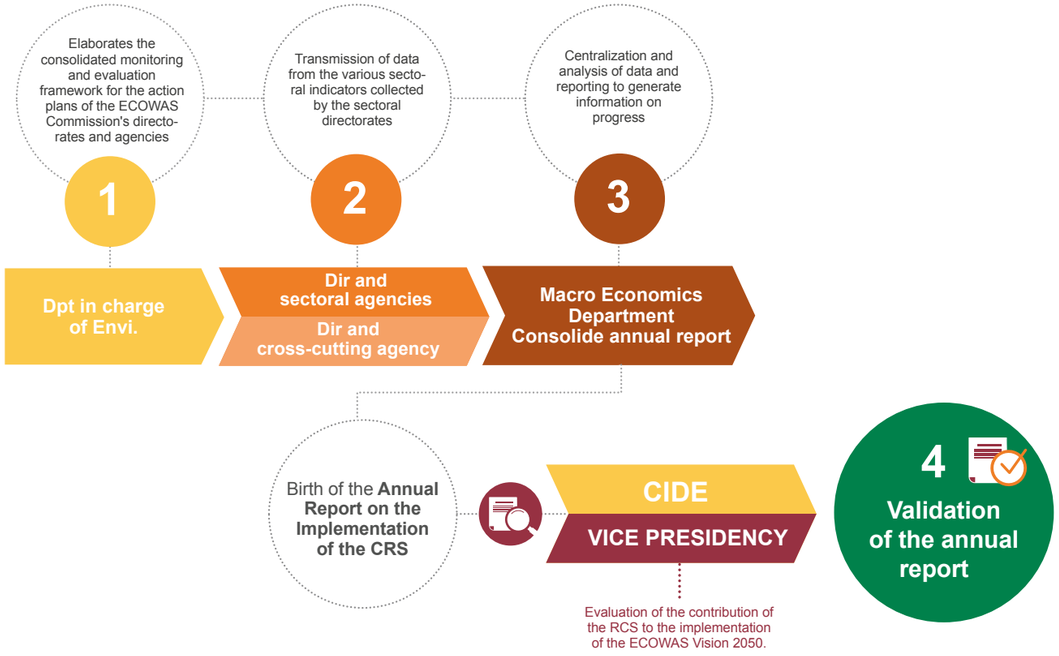
The regional and international **Technical and Financial Partners,** including UN agencies, that contribute to the financing and technical support necessary for the implementation of the actions of the RCS, and which will be grouped together in the "Climate Donors Group".

The Civil society, through regional platforms and umbrella organisations, local authorities and regional platforms of private sector actors are stakeholders in the implementation and are informed and consulted in the monitoring of the implementation of the RCS. These actors are also involved in the collection of data relevant to the monitoring of the implementation.

Non-state actors, including civil society, have an important role in encouraging member states and ECOWAS to implement regional and national commitments.

2. Monitoring-assessment and internal process of revising ambition

The monitoring and assessment of the RCS is part of the mechanisms that exist within the ECOWAS Commission to monitor the implementation, results and impacts of all of its sectoral policies.



The RCS is guided by the principle of progression, according to which ECOWAS undertakes to take more ambitious measures incrementally as it is implemented, taking into account the progress made as well as the changing needs and commitments of ECOWAS Member States. To this end, the ECOWAS Commission brings together the Member States and the other regional interested parties every two years to present the implementation status and create a dialogue on the ratcheting up of ambitions.

With its vision of aligning its action and its intervention methods with the objectives of the Paris Agreement (see Part 1), ECOWAS undertakes to regularly review the level of ambition of its RCS, taking into account the results of each planned global stocktake specified by Article 14 of the Paris Agreement.

To this end, a mid-term review of the progress made for achieving the expected results is planned for 2026, after the first overall stocktake of 2023, on the basis of the first annual reports on the implementation of the RCS and taking into account the biennial transparency reports of the Member States and the revised NDCs for 2025. This examination is steered by the Department in charge of the environment and natural resources, and leads to a mid-term qualitative critical analysis of the implementation of the RCS with a view to its next revision.

A full review of progress is planned for 2030, following the second global stocktake of 2028, taking account of the new NDCs, on the basis of which the RCS will be revised by 2031 at the latest, looking at a 2050 horizon. The revision of the RCS at the 2050 horizon will be guided by the Department in charge of the environment and natural resources.

3. Transversal means of implementation

The implementation of the ECOWAS RCS will require the ECOWAS Commission, its specialised institutions and its Member States to leverage financial resources, put in place operational mechanisms and acquire technical capabilities to achieve the objectives assigned by the strategy.

Concerning the strengthening of the Commission's internal capabilities, the approach must aim to secure the long-term institutional anchoring of the in-house technical capabilities of the Commission. It is therefore proposed to follow a progressive approach of the transferring of competences and know-how by means of technical assistance during the first years of operationalisation of the internal operational mechanisms in order to achieve an increase in the ongoing competencies in the medium term in accordance with the means necessary for implementing the RCS.

FIELD OF ACTION 1

COMMISSION'S SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICY

2023
Policy formulation: internal/external expertise
+
Quick win actions

From 2024
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CSR POLICY

FIELD OF ACTION 2

A UNIT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MAINSTREAMING IN THE COMMISSION'S SECTORAL MANDATES

Its role:

- Develop tools for the mainstreaming of climate issues, specific for the Commission and necessary for the review of regional policies and the evaluation of regional programmes;
- Provide technical assistance to sectoral directorates and agencies in the definition of their action plan, their indicators and in the mobilisation of climate financing;
- Strengthen the Commission's expertise on climate change in a transversal, structural and sustainable way (sectoral training, awareness raising, etc.);
- Provide technical advice to the team in charge of developing and implementing the Commission's CSR policy.

FIELD OF ACTION 3

CROSS-CUTTING POLICY DIALOGUE WITH MEMBER STATES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Support for international negotiations

- Sustain the ECOWAS Regional Advisory Group for Climate International Negotiations (RAG-CLIN)
- Organise annual regional workshops for preparation of international climate negotiations to build the capacity of its Member States.

Sharing experiences and consolidating harmonised methods

- Encourage political and technical dialogue to foster cooperation between Member States in the implementation of the Paris Agreement through the creation and facilitation of platforms and coalitions: sharing experiences between peers on the implementation of the Agreement, encouraging regional convergence on certain issues related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- Develop regional capitalisation products, position papers for decision-makers, and eventually proposals for harmonised regional methodologies for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Access to climate finance

- Carry out annual monitoring and evaluation of financial flows from multilateral and bilateral sources to the Member States to better guide the Commission's funding decisions, and the Member States themselves
- Develop a regional mechanism in the form of a «project preparation and climate finance access facility»: a pool of regional climate finance experts mobilised to support the accreditation and/or project formulation processes
- Encourage EBID to develop its own climate strategy, linked to its CVF accreditation process

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