

2018
2023

Regional cooperation in West Africa to accelerate response to **climate change**



Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Project

West Africa component [GCCA+ WA]

Project review

ECOWAS region (15 countries) + Chad and Mauritania



The GCCA+ West Africa project was funded by the European Union, implemented by Expertise France under the political leadership of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and in technical-scientific partnership with the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) and its AGRHYMET Regional Center (CRA).



INTRA-LEP GCCA+ PROGRAMME An initiative of the ACP Group of States funded by the European Union's European Development Fund

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7 areas of activity over the 5 years of the project

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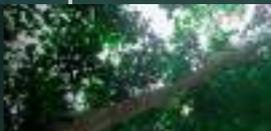
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An innovative regional project through its integrated approach to climate issues and scales of intervention

The GCCA+ West Africa (GCCA+ WA) project is part of a regional cooperation dynamic. It aims to contribute to the regional effort to implement the Paris Agreement and strengthen West Africa's resilience to climate change.

This project was innovative in more than one way.



The project has above all demonstrated the added value of the supranational level in the implementation of the Paris Agreement

The transboundary nature of climate change implies that some responses must go beyond the national level. The GCCA+ WA project has contributed to increasing the capacity of the West African region to **address climate change issues that cannot be solved at the national level alone**, in line with the **ECOWAS principle of subsidiarity and principle of solidarity**.

The project has intervened at **different scales from a regional perspective**:

- **International:** climate negotiations within the framework of the UNFCCC;
- **Regional:** political cooperation with the ECOWAS Regional Climate Strategy, and scientific cooperation with the CILSS Regional AGRHYMET Centre (CRA);
- **National:** national capacity building for the implementation of the NDCs and of the Paris Agreement;
- **Local:** climate-smart agriculture pilot projects conducted locally but whose lessons learnt are disseminated at the regional level.



A multidisciplinary action made possible by the commitment of regional stakeholders

The GCCA+ WA project proposed an **integrated response** to the fight against climate change, which by its very nature impacts **all sectors and actors of the society**. The project's achievements have been multidisciplinary, and this global response has reinforced the overall coherence, multiplying the effect of the results of each action.

An innovative regional project through its integrated approach to climate issues and scales of intervention



A multi-actor dynamic guarantees a coherent response

The involvement of regional stakeholders has ensured that the project's achievements are grounded in the reality and needs of the West African region and its communities: Member States, civil society representatives, farmers' organisations, scientists, regional organisations and regional development banks have worked closely together to achieve ambitious, coherent and long-term climate action.



A partnership approach at the service of regional institutions

Expertise France's implementation of this project focused on the **leadership and development of regional institutions**. After a diagnostic and analysis phase of the ECOWAS mandate, and of the other regional partner institutions including the CILSS, tools and actions were proposed to reveal the potential for climate action of each in accordance with their respective mandates. Concerning the ECOWAS Commission, actions focused on strengthening its mandate as a regional integration organisation, respecting its founding principles and **capitalizing on the existing** and ECOWAS's rich history of climate action. The ECOWAS Commission, with the support of Expertise France, has led this project within a framework of **consultation and institutional dialogue**, promoting a **partnership approach** to create synergies between stakeholders and different sectors of activity.

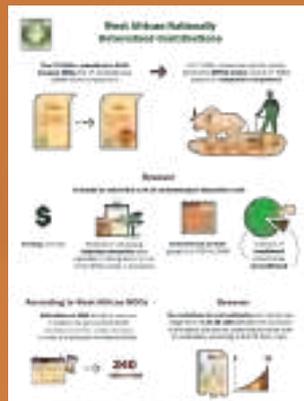
This document presents a summary of the major results obtained in each of the project's 7 areas of activity.

West African regional institutions

Increased **leadership of West African regional institutions** for a coherent and ambitious response to climate change.



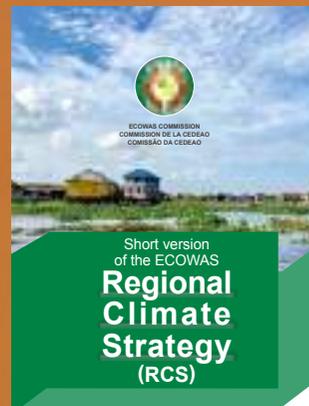
Results obtained



A diagnosis carried out on the implementation of the Paris Agreement in the region: panorama of countries' nationally determined contributions (NDCs), role of regional institutions, with a focus on the potential role of ECOWAS in implementing the Paris Agreement, detailing the possible interventions at regional level.

→ [Summary of the diagnosis](#)

A cross-cutting coordination mechanism on climate within the ECOWAS Commission was created: the Interdepartmental Committee on the Environment (CIDE), in favour of a **multi-sectoral and systematic integration** of climate in the Commission's directorates. This Committee was operationalised during the process of developing the Regional Climate Strategy and met 5 times between 2021 and 2022.



An ECOWAS Regional Climate Strategy (RCS) developed and adopted in 2022 including a **vision for 2050** and an [action plan for 2022-2030](#).

With this document, in line with the African Union's continental strategy, ECOWAS sets regional adaptation and mitigation objectives broken down by sector. **Its multisectoral nature demonstrates ECOWAS' desire to mainstream the climate and make it everyone's business**, in order to initiate a paradigm shift. The Regional Climate Strategy was developed in a participatory approach both internally at the Commission and externally with Member States and other regional stakeholders.

West African regional institutions

Increased **leadership of West African regional institutions** for a coherent and ambitious response to climate change.



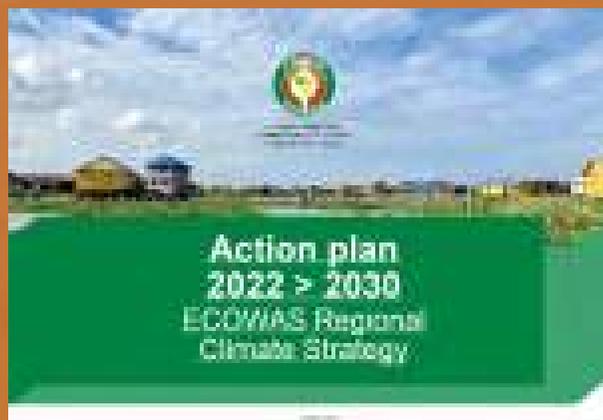
Results obtained



A mechanism for coordinating the ECOWAS Commission's donors on climate action: the *Climate Donors Group*.

Part of the institutional arrangements of the Regional Climate Strategy, this coordination mechanism is designed to operate over the long term. It was conceptualized in 2023 through a participatory process involving ECOWAS directorates, regional institutions and the Commission's technical and financial partners, to **facilitate the financing of the RCS**.

It is intended to **encourage donors to integrate climate issues** into their programming with ECOWAS, across all sectors to ensure consistency with RCS objectives.



The ECOWAS Regional Climate Strategy creates favourable conditions to **structure the mobilisation of financial resources and massively increase climate financing in West Africa**.

02 Climate Finance

Mobilisation of Climate Finance



Results obtained



Mapping of climate finance flows to the ECOWAS-CILSS zone carried out and institutionalised, to supply complete, accurate and up-to-date information on available resources to finance climate action:

→ first edition in **2020**

→ updated in **2022**

First regional climate roundtable of technical and financial partners conceptualised and facilitated by the ECOWAS Commission, to coordinate regional efforts to support climate action, in particular to raise the funds needed to implement the Regional Climate Strategy, and to set up the Climate Donors Group, a permanent coordination mechanism for donors operating in the region.

Strengthened capacity of the region to mobilise **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** resources:



- EBID (ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development) accreditation file submitted to the GCF;
- FMCA (Financial Management Capacity Assessment) delivered by the GCF to the RAAF (Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food), including access to the readiness programme;
- Observer membership of the ECOWAS Commission issued by the GCF;
- CILSS supported in the constitution of its accreditation file to the GCF.

02 Climate Finance

Mobilisation of Climate Finance



Results obtained

more than 500

public and private sector executives trained



More than 500 public and private sector executives trained in the 15 ECOWAS Member States in setting up climate projects.



Regional programme pipe developed (USD 180 million) to support Member States' access to climate finance in the implementation of the ECOWAS's Regional Climate Strategy agricultural sector priorities, including a regional project on pastoralism.



ECOWAS Regional Agriculture and Food Fund offer strengthened through contribution to the design and operationalisation of the "**West Africa Initiative for Climate Smart agriculture**" (WAICSA): blended funding mechanism to support climate-smart Agriculture (CSA) practices among smallholder farmers' organisations and agribusinesses.

03

Implementation of the Paris Agreement

Implementation of the Paris Agreement by West African States



Results obtained



ECOWAS Guide to the implementation of the Paris Agreement published: to provide Member States with decision making tools for the development of their policies and the setting up of bodies and mechanisms in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

4 Member States assisted in the revision or implementation of their NDC :



TOGO

Territorialisation of the NDC at the local level (city)



GUINEA BISSAU

Methodological design of the NDC review process



LIBERIA

Support for national dialogue to promote ownership of its revised NDC



SIERRA LEONE

Support to the consolidation of the revised NDC, scenarios and adaptation costs in the agriculture sector

A digital magazine "**Stories of NDCs in West Africa**" launched. Designed for climate practitioners to learn from the successes and pitfalls of implementing the Paris Agreement in the region. 3 issues published:



• **N°1:** In Senegal, various, complementary leverage actions serving a national vision for access to climate finance

• **N°2:** Innovations and good practices in consultation methods in the context of Covid-19 for setting priorities and targets for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

• **N°3:** Mobilising climate finance in West Africa: feedback from the creation and operationalisation of national climate funds

04

Common regional positions

Emergence of **common regional positions** in international climate negotiations



Results obtained



A Regional Advisory Group for International Climate Negotiations (RAG CLIN) of ECOWAS formally constituted to promote the emergence of common West African positions to be carried within the groups of negotiators constituted: UNFCCC African Climate Change Negotiators Group (AGN), Least Developed Countries (LDC) Negotiators Group...

Strengthened capacity of regional negotiators through regular technical notes, bi-annual RAG CLIN workshops with negotiators in the region, and coordination meetings during COP26 in Glasgow and COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh.

4 regional workshops

Four regional COP preparation workshops organized by ECOWAS in partnership with other regional institutions, including WAEMU.



Common positions consolidated before the COPs, and official releases submitted to the UNFCCC at COP26 and 27:

- ECOWAS, CILSS and WAEMU **communiqué** on COP26 and climate change
- ECOWAS Commission, BOAD, WAEMU and CILSS **communiqué**: West Africa's Expectations for COP27



Strengthened West African regional presence during the COPs: an office at COP26 and a West African pavilion at COP27 to promote regional climate action, as well as that of member states, and to provide a space for daily consultation on the negotiations for states and regional institutions.

Climate-smart agriculture

Support for innovation and experimentation of **climate-smart agriculture** practices and agroecology



Results obtained

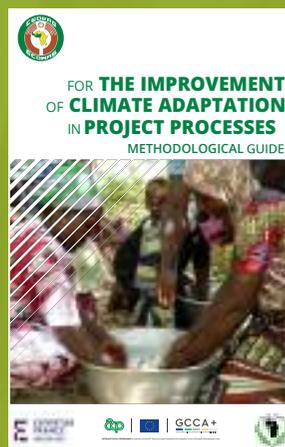


**15 pilot projects
in 11 countries**

15 climate-smart agriculture (CSA) pilot projects supported through 2 calls for projects (total budget of 3.2 million euros) in 11 West African countries (Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Chad), 220 000 euros on average per project over 18 to 24 months.

This geographical choice enabled to cover the entire ECOWAS-CILSS area, in synergy with the 15 pilot projects supported by the ECOWAS Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food (RAAF) in the framework of its Agroecology Programme, and benefit from a panorama of 17 countries and 30 projects for regional capitalization.

Regional capitalization on key success factors for climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector, with the production of the following strategic and methodological documents:



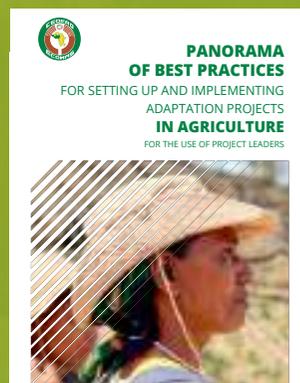
- **Methodological guide for the improvement of climate adaptation in project processes:** for technical and financial partners, it provides advice on how to build a call for projects proposals (CPPs) that effectively takes into account the adaptation of agriculture to climate change.
- **Policy brief "Feedback for better integration of climate change adaptation into the design of calls for project proposals and public policies in west africa":** intended primarily for use by ECOWAS member states and decision-makers operating in the region, this note carries several key messages, notably in terms of support for civil society project leaders in establishing links with local, national and regional institutions to scale up innovative practices, the need to strengthen knowledge of climate vulnerabilities, or the development of CSA and agroecology strategies that are differentiated according to ecoregions and national specificities.

Climate-smart agriculture

Support for innovation and experimentation of **climate-smart agriculture** practices and agroecology



Results obtained



Regional capitalization on key success factors for climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector, with the production of the following strategic and methodological documents:

- **Panorama of best practices for setting up and implementing adaptation projects in agriculture for the use of project leaders:** these practices are described step-by-step in the project cycle, based on feedback from CSA and agroecology pilot projects.

- **Capitalization methodology guide for pilot projects:** for project managers to better distinguish between capitalization, monitoring-evaluation and communication, based on guidelines for capitalizing on agricultural adaptation to climate change, with a template capitalization form.

- **Policy briefs for the integration of best practices around (I) The access to climate services, (ii) Water resources management, (iii) Capacity building for climate change resilience by ecowas, its partners and member states.**

- **Public synthesis about the contribution from pilot projects to the fight against climate change in west africa:** looks at each of the 15 CSA and agroecology pilot projects supported by the the GCCA+ WA project and implemented between 2020 and 2022 by the project leaders.

- **Technical sheets "Climate smart agriculture and agroecology best practices" (I) biochar, (II) photovoltaic irrigation, (III) irrigation advisory system, (IV) Smart-valley approach, which will be available in the digital library of best practices being developed by CILSS.**



06

Scientific and technical capacity

Strengthening the **scientific and technical capacity** of the region to fight climate change



Results obtained

Scientific references for measuring the carbon of representative agroforestry ecosystems in West Africa published (via 4 doctoral theses in Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso and Ghana).

These references are a first in the region: they strengthen the reliability of national communications and facilitate access to data for the development of carbon projects.



4 doctoral theses



Hydro-meteorological technicians in the 17 countries of the ECOWAS-CILSS zone are **trained**, their software and **hydro-climatological databases** are **updated and harmonised** (CLIDATA and Hydromet).



07 Climate training

Structuring climate **training** and degree courses on climate change in the region, and training for journalists



Results obtained



50 West African executives trained through the Regional center AGRHYMET (CRA) **Professional Master in Climate Change and Sustainable Development.**

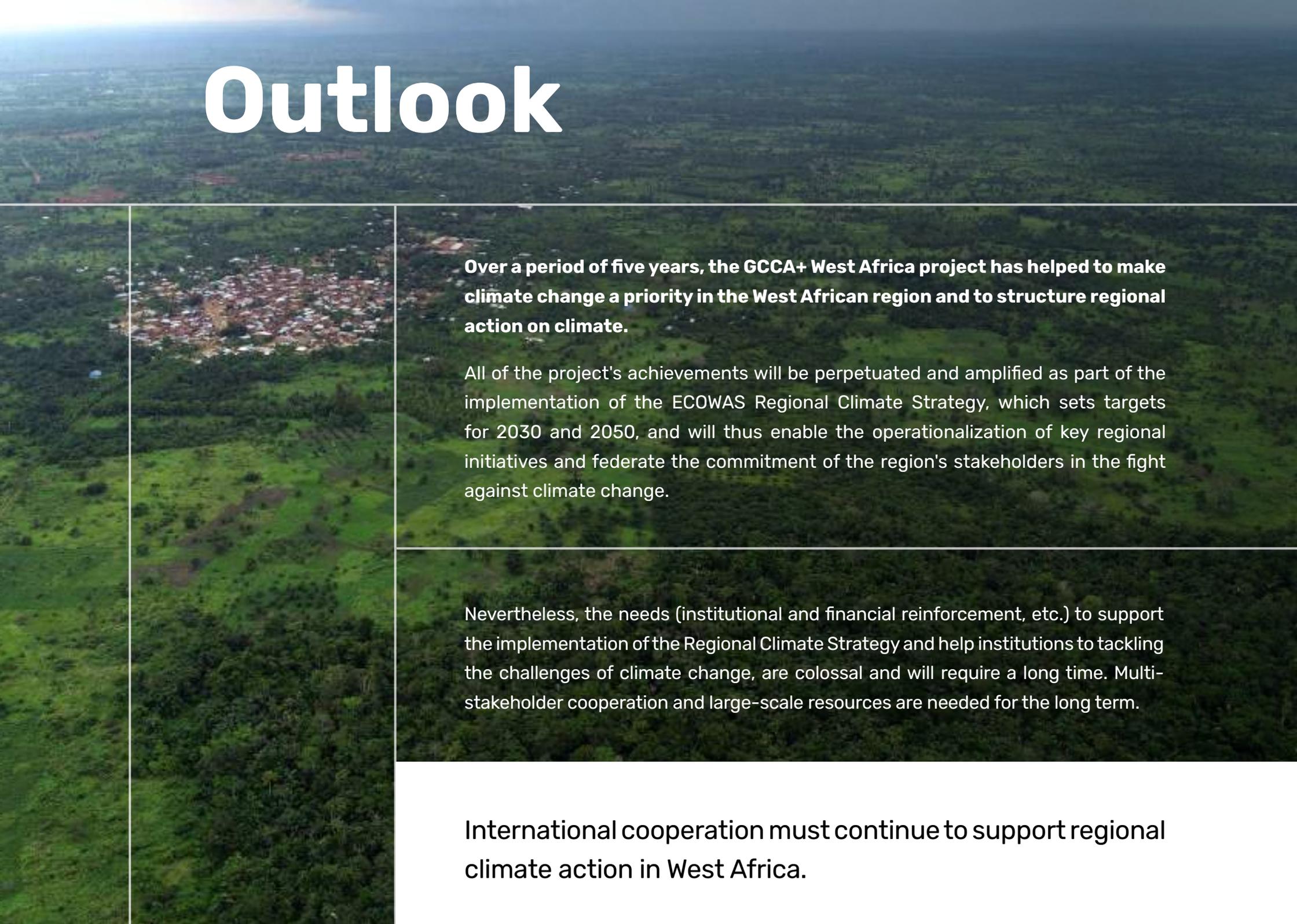
These trained executives are at the forefront of the political scene to push forward the climate agenda in West African countries.

E-learning

- A regional **digital e-learning** platform conceptualised in the field of climate change.
- A **strategy for the digitalisation** of the CRA's Climate Change and Sustainable Development Master's courses has been designed.
- **Two training sessions for journalists** on climate issues in 2019 and 2021, in partnership with the associations Climate Tracker and Climate Chance: 60 journalists from 15 West African countries trained.



Outlook

An aerial photograph of a vast, green landscape, likely a savanna or forested area. In the upper left, a small cluster of buildings with reddish-brown roofs is visible, surrounded by trees. The rest of the image is dominated by dense, vibrant green vegetation under a slightly hazy sky.

Over a period of five years, the GCCA+ West Africa project has helped to make climate change a priority in the West African region and to structure regional action on climate.

All of the project's achievements will be perpetuated and amplified as part of the implementation of the ECOWAS Regional Climate Strategy, which sets targets for 2030 and 2050, and will thus enable the operationalization of key regional initiatives and federate the commitment of the region's stakeholders in the fight against climate change.

Nevertheless, the needs (institutional and financial reinforcement, etc.) to support the implementation of the Regional Climate Strategy and help institutions to tackling the challenges of climate change, are colossal and will require a long time. Multi-stakeholder cooperation and large-scale resources are needed for the long term.

International cooperation must continue to support regional climate action in West Africa.



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