

Adapting the Sahel region and the Congo Basin to climate change impacts

Implementing regional and national adaptation priorities in Central and West Africa (PACO)

Context

The regions of Central and West Africa face major challenges due to climate change, which directly affects the populations reliant on agriculture, livestock, and fisheries. As a response, these regions are collaborating within the initiative Implementation of Regional and National Adaptation Priorities in Central and West Africa (PACO) to support the adaptive capacities of the communities and support environmental conservation and natural resource management. Additionally, the important Congo Basin forests, which serve as carbon reservoirs, require adaptation to the evolving climate to maintain their ecological balance.

Women, who depend heavily on natural resources, are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Their limited access to education, information, and technologies further complicates their ability to manage climate-related risks, particularly in agriculture and other critical areas that are vulnerable to the impacts of a changing climate.

Objective

Governments and other relevant actors in Central and West African countries within the PACO network are effectively implementing important and needs-based adaptation measures and activities. These efforts align with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to address the impacts of climate change.

Approach

The programme focuses on:

- enhancing the organisational and administrative abilities of the Climate Commissions for the Sahel Region (CCRS) and the Congo Basin (CCBC) to support NAP implementation by their member states,
- improving national monitoring systems for tracking and assessing adaptation projects and measures,
- promoting coordination between national and local adaptation measures,
- supporting businesses in evaluating climate risks and adopting risk mitigation strategies,
- implementing 20 small-scale and innovative adaptation projects to benefit 50,000 people in PACO countries,

- facilitating South-South exchange through regular webinars, conferences, and other exchange and cooperation formats.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) are working to secure additional funds for the implementation of adaptation measures across the PACO countries.



Expected results and impact

The PACO's programme ultimate target groups include vulnerable households (mainly women), communities and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across West and Central African countries who are facing the impacts of adverse climate change. Other direct beneficiaries include regional, national, and local agencies, researchers, and civil society organisations working on climate change or related sectoral issues, whose activities affect vulnerable households, communities and SMEs.

The following impacts are envisaged:

- implemented 20 small-scale and innovative adaptation projects aligned with priority sectors as identified in the PACO countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs),
- increased resilience to climate change of 50,000 people (50% of whom are women) across the PACO countries,
- scale up adaptation techniques in 8 local communities in the PACO countries including an enhanced adaptive capacity of the targeted households and communities,

- mobilised additional private and public finance for climate change adaptation through specific innovative financing mechanisms of the AfDB and the IsDB,
- climate risks analysis realised for up to 20 SMEs across the PACO countries to improve their capacity to develop appropriate solutions to climate change impact.



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