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STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDCs) IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) TECHNOPOLICY BRIEF NO. 76

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African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS)



The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) is a transdisciplinary network of researchers, policymakers, private sector actors and the civil society promoting the generation, dissemination, use and mastery of Science, Technology and Innovations (STI) for African development, environmental sustainability and global inclusion. In collaboration with like-minded institutions, ATPS provides platforms for regional and international research and knowledge sharing in order to build Africa's capabilities in STI policy research, policymaking and implementation for sustainable development.



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About the Project

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), with its conditional and unconditional commitments, are key by-products of the Agreement and require all the countries to spell out their intended actions, to address climate change over a five year period in terms of adaptation, mitigation, and means of implementation as well as opportunities arising therefrom and sustainable development co-benefits for the continent. Despite the Paris Agreement providing little guidance on what and how climate change adaptation would be included in the NDCs, most African NDCs highlight a number of cross-cutting strategies to address their mitigation ambitions as well as their adaptation needs. This is purblind considering the continent is already dealing with increased severity and frequency of climate risks and hazards due to its geographical positioning, overreliance on climate-sensitive production sectors such as agriculture, tourism, resource, and infrastructure deficit, and the limited adaptive capacity of the people.

The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS), in partnership with the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and the West African Green Economics Development Institute (WAGEDI), secured funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) through the African Climate Change Fund (ACCF) to implement the **“Building the Capacity of Selected sub-Sahara African Countries to Effectively Measure Progress in their Nationally Determined Contributions’ Implementation using Tracking Tools and Indexes”** project aimed at enhancing the capacity of selected sub-Saharan African countries to effectively monitor and report on their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The selected countries include **Botswana, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe**. The primary goal is to develop and utilise tracking tools and indexes that will enable these countries to measure their progress in NDC implementation accurately. This initiative builds upon earlier collaborations among ATPS, PACJA, and WAGEDI, which involved the development of NDC implementation monitoring and tracking tools in eight sub-Saharan African countries. The lessons learned from these earlier projects, as well as the networks and capacities already established, will provide a solid foundation for the current project. The collaboration aims to ensure that participating countries can monitor their NDC progress and compare their performance with other countries and regions in Africa.

The project seeks to address a significant gap in the capacity of sub-Saharan African countries to track and report on the implementation of their NDCs. The ATPS operates through a network of National Chapters in 30 countries, which includes 27 African and 3 Diaspora chapters. These National Chapters are led by Focal Persons who provide intellectual and administrative leadership at the country level. By leveraging this established network, the project aims to train NDC implementation focal persons and champions who will use the tracking and monitoring tools developed through this initiative.

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Acknowledgement

The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) and its Partners Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) and West African Green Economic Development Institute (WAGEDI) express our sincere gratitude to all individuals and organizations who contributed to the study on the implementation of Côte d'Ivoire's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). We are also thankful to the various stakeholders from government agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, and local communities led by the Côte d'Ivoire ATPS National Chapter Coordinator for their invaluable insights and feedback. Their active participation and collaboration have been instrumental in shaping a comprehensive and inclusive approach to climate action in Côte d'Ivoire. Special thanks to the project team from all the partnering institutions. Lastly, we acknowledge the financial and technical support provided by the African Development Bank (AfDB) through its African Climate Change Fund (ACCF), without which this policy brief would not have been possible.

Key Messages

- Cote d'Ivoire has made reasonable progress in implementing its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. This is reflected in its policy of replenishment and preservation of its forest massif, its energy potential with its hydrographic network, its combined cycle natural gas power stations and the increased use of renewable energies which also exposes the country's potential to become a real carbon sink.
- But the country faces significant challenges in her NDCs implementation such as limited financial resources, lack of human resources, absence of clarity in responsibilities, paucity of quality data, inadequate overall coordination, and lack of legal mandate.
- Overcoming the challenges inherent in NDCs implementation will require engaging stakeholders in capacity building and training initiatives as well as intensification of engagement with the decision-makers to ensure their buy-in and willingness to assign timelines to get all or at least most of the recommendations stated in this brief so as to prepare the country for the biennial transparency reporting (BTR) regime.
- Opportunities exist in strengthening the four strategic pillars of the Cote d'Ivoire NDCs plan: Governance, implementation, communication, and gender mainstreaming and this will involve mobilizing several actors and implementing partners.

1. Introduction

Côte d'Ivoire is home to over 25 million people and is located in the transition zone between the humid equatorial climate that characterizes the southern part of the country, and the dry tropical climate of the north. The country generally experiences a rainy season from June to October and average annual temperatures range from 24-28°C. The country is simultaneously experiencing the effects of climate change and its impacts on the Ivorian economy; threatening vital industries such as cocoa production and hindering socioeconomic development. Hence a more responsible and low-carbon economic development policy which could make it possible to limit the negative impacts on the environment and guarantee a more viable planet for future generations becomes a necessity. Aware of these issues, Côte d'Ivoire ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994, as well as the Kyoto Protocol in 2005. Subsequently, Côte d'Ivoire joined the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in 2005, the REDD+ Mechanism in 2012 and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) in 2012.

The Government of Cote d'Ivoire has ensured that efforts are made to preserve the environment and lead to the reduction of the harmful impacts of climate change on the national economy and to the improvement of the living conditions of the populations. To this effect, Côte d'Ivoire presented its revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the period 2021-2030 and thus reaffirms its commitment to contribute to the global effort to reduce greenhouse gases. This commitment is reflected in its policy of replenishment and preservation of its forest massif, its energy potential with its hydrographic network, combined cycle natural gas power stations, and the increased use of renewable energies. As a result, Cote d'Ivoire has all the potential to become a net carbon sink.

The implementation of NDCs in Côte d'Ivoire is placed under the aegis of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. For the effective operation of an NDC institutional/governance arrangement, particular attention was paid to the following principles: the principle of inclusion: all the actors intervening in the fight against climate change must be involved in the implementation of the NDCs; the principle of ownership: all actors involved in the fight against climate change must invest more in the implementation of the NDCs; and the coordination principle: the roles and responsibilities of all actors involved in the fight against climate change must be clearly defined.

2. Rationale for Stakeholder Participation in NDC Implementation

Côte d'Ivoire is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change which threaten its vital economic sectors and overall socioeconomic development. As a country that experiences both humid equatorial and dry tropical climates, it faces significant challenges such as increased temperatures, variable rainfall, and extreme weather events. These climatic changes adversely affect key industries like cocoa production which is a cornerstone of Côte d'Ivoire's economy. Consequently, there is a pressing need for a responsible and low-carbon economic development policy to mitigate these impacts and ensure a sustainable future for its population.

Recognizing these challenges, Côte d'Ivoire has actively participated in global climate initiatives. It ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1994 and the Kyoto Protocol in 2005. The country has also joined mechanisms like the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and REDD+ to bolster its climate action framework. Côte d'Ivoire's revised NDCs for 2021-2030 reflect its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing environmental sustainability through policies focused on forest preservation, renewable energy, and efficient energy use.

Despite these efforts, Côte d'Ivoire faces significant barriers to effective NDCs implementation. These include limited financial resources, a lack of human capacity, unclear institutional responsibilities, inadequate data quality, and insufficient overall coordination. To overcome these obstacles, it is crucial to engage stakeholders across various sectors in capacity-building initiatives and ensure their active participation in the NDCs processes. Stakeholder engagement is essential for enhancing the effectiveness of climate policies and ensuring comprehensive, inclusive, and sustainable climate action. Engaging a diverse range of stakeholders including government officials, civil society organizations, private sector representatives, and community leaders can provide valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities within Côte d'Ivoire's NDCs implementation and therefore provide a veritable ground for a sustainable implementation of climate actions.

3. Methodology

This policy brief on Cote d'Ivoire's climate governance and stakeholder participation in NDCs implementation was developed using a rigorous methodology that combined qualitative and quantitative research approaches. The process commenced with an extensive literature review, analyzing national policy documents, academic articles, and international reports to establish a foundational understanding of Cote d'Ivoire's climate policies and the landscape of stakeholder engagements. This review contextualized the study and identified key themes and issues pertinent to NDCs implementation and stakeholder involvement in the country.

Primary data collection involved conducting key informant interviews and focus group discussions with a diverse range of stakeholders, including government officials, civil society organizations, private sector representatives, and community leaders in Cote d'Ivoire. These interactions provided valuable insights into stakeholder perspectives, challenges, and experiences related to climate action and NDC implementation. Additionally, secondary data sources such as national climate policies and stakeholder mapping reports were analyzed to complement and enrich the primary data gathered.

Data analysis utilized both narrative and quantitative methods. Narrative analysis interpreted qualitative data from interviews and discussions, elucidating significant themes and identifying patterns in stakeholder engagement. Quantitative analysis focused on secondary data to discern trends and gaps in stakeholder participation across different sectors and regions of Cote d'Ivoire. The synthesis of findings integrated insights from the literature review, primary and secondary data analyses to develop a comprehensive understanding of stakeholder participation in Cote d'Ivoire's NDCs implementation. This culminated in actionable recommendations aimed at enhancing stakeholder engagement and supporting effective climate governance in the country.

4. Major Findings

4.1 Overview of Key Policies and Institutions in NDCs Implementation

National policies or related policies and laws across the priority sectors were reviewed to understand their objectives and goals relating to NDCs implementation, environmental management, climate change mitigation and adaptation. They include the constitution of Côte d'Ivoire; Law No. 2015-537 (Agricultural Guidance of Côte d'Ivoire); Law n ° 2014-427 (Ivorian forestry code); Law No. 2014-132 relating to the code of electricity; 2014-390 Act of 20 June 2014 guidance on sustainable development. This law defines the fundamental objectives of governmental action with regard to sustainable development. It notably aims at specifying the related political tools, integrating sustainability principles in all public and private entities. Other relevant policies include:

The National Development Plan (PND) 2021-2025 is the reference document for national development planning. In this document, the State devotes one of the six priority axes, in particular axis 5, to the fight against climate change;

National Short-Lived Climate Pollutant (SLCP) Action Plan for Cote d'Ivoire: This document was prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development with international bodies. The objectives of this document are stated as follows: assessment of the current situation of air quality and short-lived climate pollutants in Côte d'Ivoire; identification of measures to mitigate SLCP emissions;

Development of a National Action Plan: To reduce short-lived climate pollutants and policy briefs on SLCP reduction measures in priority sectors to inform policy makers in their decision- making; National Strategy for the preservation, rehabilitation and extension of forests in Ivory Coast (SNPREF)(2018); Capacity building for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cote d'Ivoire 2016-2020; National Climate Change Program (PNCC)(2014); National Strategy for Fight against Climate Change 2015-2020; Decree no. 2012-1049 (creating the National Commission for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation); Decree No. 2012-1050 creating the National Authority of the Mechanism for a Clean Development (AN-CDM); Decree 2012-988 establishing the National Platform for Risk Reduction and Disaster Management(2012); Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 (updated by the National Energy Seminar synthesis report); Solar tax incentive; National Disaster Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan.

4.2 Review of National Climate Change Institutional Landscape in Côte d'Ivoire

In this section, all national, both governmental and non-governmental climate change institutions were reviewed to understand their roles, objectives, interlinkages and goals relating to NDCs implementation, environmental management, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Cote d'Ivoire NDCs governance system is placed under the aegis of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. For the effective operation of an NDC governance arrangement, particular attention should be paid to the following principles: the principle of inclusion: all the actors intervening in the fight against climate change must be involved in the implementation of the NDCs; the principle of ownership: all actors involved in the fight against climate change must invest more in the implementation of the NDCs; the coordination principle: the roles and responsibilities of all actors involved in the fight against climate change must be clearly defined.

Côte d'Ivoire intends to finance mitigation and adaptation measures of its revised NDCs using various sources: endogenous sources- national budget: it will involve mobilizing financial resources through the alignment of NDC measures with national development plans as well as the inclusion of these measures in public investment programs; private finance: the participation of the private sector in the financing of the implementation of the NDCs constitutes an essential element. In particular, it will make it possible to develop innovative financing such as a local carbon market. Exogenous sources- climate finance: the development of international climate finance is a real hope for developing countries and Côte d'Ivoire in particular. The increase in the capitalization of climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund (AF) as well as disbursements to developing countries constitute an essential expectation.

Technical and financial partners: the support of technical and financial partners in achieving the environmental ambitions of Côte d'Ivoire has been decisive since the first environmental assessments that led to the development of the National Action Plan for the Environment (PNAE) of 1994, through the post-conflict environmental assessment of 2015, to the development of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of 2022. Maintaining and strengthening this support is necessary in view of the emergencies linked to the achievement of climate objectives in the coming decades.

Other economic instruments: Côte d'Ivoire, like other countries, intends to diversify its economic instruments to finance its environmental and climate actions. As such, the country recently engaged in a process of preparing and issuing green bonds on sub-regional and international markets.

The **Côte d'Ivoire** NDCs implementation/partnership system was developed by the country within the framework of the global partnership for the implementation of the NDCs (NDC Partnership), identifies the support partners for the implementation and monitoring of the NDCs. This plan has defined concrete measures and planning for the implementation of said measures around four (4) strategic pillars. This implementation extends over the period of 2022-2030 and will mobilize several actors and implementing partners.

4.3 Best Practices and Impact in NDC Implementation in Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire has demonstrated commendable strides in the implementation of its NDCs, reflecting robust best practices across various facets of climate action. A cornerstone of these efforts lies in inclusive stakeholder engagement, involving key ministries, the private sector, civil society, and local authorities. This participatory approach has culminated in the development of a revised 2022-2030 NDC document that integrates diverse perspectives and sectoral priorities, ensuring comprehensive alignment with national development goals.

-Integral to Côte d'Ivoire's NDC implementation strategy is the systematic integration of climate considerations into national planning frameworks. This initiative promotes policy coherence across sectors, mitigating fragmentation and duplicity in climate actions. Notably, the country has set ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, aiming to achieve a 28% reduction by 2030 compared to business-as-usual scenarios. This commitment underscores its proactive stance towards mitigating climate change impacts.

-Financial mechanisms have been pivotal in driving Côte d'Ivoire's climate agenda forward, with efforts focused on mobilizing resources through innovative financing instruments like green bonds and public-private partnerships. These initiatives have facilitated significant financial flows towards climate-related activities, augmenting domestic funding with international support. For instance, the country has accessed funding from the Global Climate Fund (GCF) and other climate finance mechanisms to bolster its resilience and adaptation efforts.

-The implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices and renewable energy solutions have been instrumental in achieving both mitigation and

adaptation objectives: Sustainable agricultural initiatives have not only reduced emissions but also enhanced food security and livelihoods in rural communities. Similarly, investments in renewable energy have diversified the energy mix, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and bolstering energy security. These measures are aligned with Côte d'Ivoire's broader development agenda, fostering sustainable economic growth while reducing climate vulnerabilities.

-Institutional strengthening has been pivotal to enhancing governance and coordination in climate actions: The establishment of a centralized coordination mechanism has improved inter-agency collaboration, facilitating more effective implementation of NDC commitments. Additionally, capacity-building initiatives have enhanced the technical capabilities of institutions and stakeholders, ensuring robust Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of climate actions.

-Public awareness campaigns and educational programs have played a critical role in galvanizing support for climate initiatives across the society. These efforts have heightened awareness about climate change impacts and the importance of collective action, fostering a conducive environment for sustainable development practices. Moreover, improved data collection and reporting frameworks have bolstered transparency and accountability in climate governance, enabling evidence-based decision-making and policy refinement.

Looking ahead, Côte d'Ivoire remains committed to scaling up its climate actions, addressing remaining challenges such as limited financial capacities, human resources constraints, and institutional gaps. Continued collaboration with international partners and stakeholders will be essential in securing additional funding and technical support to accelerate progress towards its NDC targets.

4.3 Challenges and Opportunities for NDC Implementation in Côte d'Ivoire

The implementation of NDCs in Côte d'Ivoire faces several significant challenges. These challenges are classified into financial, institutional, information, and legal categories and impact the effectiveness of policies and institutional actions towards climate change mitigation.

Financial constraints: Limited financial capacities present a major challenge. Difficulties in accessing funds from the GEF and other sources, combined with slow mobilization of available climate finance, impede progress. There is also a lack of national financial commitment for regular submissions of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports (BURs), essential for NDC-related

activities such as greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and MRV of mitigation actions. Many data collection activities are donor-driven, which hampers the adaptation of existing data collection frameworks for NDCs implementation.

Institutional barriers: Institutional challenges include insufficient human resources with adequate capacity for climate action-related skills. This often necessitates outsourcing technical tasks to external consultants. There is a lack of clarity in roles and responsibilities due to overlapping mandates and incoherence between legal instruments. Moreover, many institutions with mandates for data collection are either weak or non-operational, leading to inadequate institutional capacity. Weak communication and coordination among institutions exacerbate these issues, with rigid bureaucratic processes and a lack of legal frameworks mandating information sharing.

Information barriers: The paucity of quality data is another critical issue. There is no established platform for the collection, storage, and sharing of NDCs and climate action-related data. Current infrastructure is inadequate for addressing climate change priorities, and there is a general lack of good quality activity data for GHG inventories. Information on mitigation actions and their impacts is scarce, as there is no centralized reporting or data collection system.

Legal barriers: The absence of binding commitments is a substantial legal challenge. There is no specific legislation mandating monitoring and evaluation activities across all government bodies. This legal gap hampers the effective implementation of mitigation actions and transparency-related activities necessary for robust NDCs execution.

Despite the above challenges, several opportunities exist to enhance NDCs implementation in Côte d'Ivoire. They include:

Financial Opportunities: Exploring innovative financing options, such as green bonds and climate finance mechanisms, can provide new funding streams. Public-private partnerships could also be leveraged to mobilize additional resources. Increasing transparency and accountability in financial management could attract more international funding.

Institutional opportunities: Strengthening institutional capacities through targeted capacity-building initiatives can enhance the effectiveness of key institutions. Clarifying roles and responsibilities and improving coordination mechanisms among institutions can streamline efforts. Establishing a centralized

body for climate change coordination could ensure better communication and collaboration across sectors and stakeholders.

Information Opportunities: Developing a comprehensive platform for data collection, storage, and sharing can improve the quality and availability of climate-related data. Investing in infrastructure, such as hardware and software, can support better data management. Enhancing public awareness and education on climate change can increase engagement and support for climate actions.

Legal Opportunities: Enacting specific legislation to mandate and enable the implementation of mitigation actions and transparency activities is crucial. Such legal frameworks can ensure sustained commitment and compliance from all stakeholders, facilitating a more structured approach to NDCs implementation.

5. Conclusion

The critical role of stakeholder participation in the implementation of Côte d'Ivoire's NDCs cannot be overstated. Effective stakeholder engagement is essential for the successful realization of climate goals and the sustainable development of the country. By involving diverse groups, including government agencies, civil society, the private sector, and local communities, Côte d'Ivoire can leverage a wide range of expertise, resources, and perspectives, ensuring a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to climate action.

Stakeholder participation not only enhances the legitimacy and acceptance of climate policies but also fosters collaboration and innovation. Active engagement of stakeholders leads to better identification of challenges and opportunities, more effective resource allocation, and improved accountability and transparency. Moreover, it strengthens the capacity of various actors to contribute to climate resilience and sustainability, creating a robust foundation for long-term environmental and economic benefits. Thus, the involvement of all relevant stakeholders is imperative for overcoming barriers to NDC implementation and achieving the nation's climate objectives.

6. Proposed Policy and Institutional Recommendations

To effectively address the multifaceted challenges of climate change in Côte d'Ivoire, several actionable policy recommendations must be implemented with comprehensive planning and strategic coordination:

Recommendation 1: Establish a national climate change coordination mechanism: This centralized body would oversee and harmonize climate change initiatives across various sectors and stakeholders, ensuring streamlined and efficient efforts. The mechanism should facilitate effective communication and collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector entities, and international partners. By doing so, it can prevent overlap, leverage synergies, and optimize resource allocation, fostering a unified approach to climate resilience and sustainability.

Recommendation 2: Enhance climate finance mechanisms to support the implementation of climate-related projects: Côte d'Ivoire should explore innovative financing options, such as green bonds, specialized climate finance instruments, and public-private partnerships. Increasing transparency and accountability in financial management will be key to attracting and effectively utilizing international funding. By ensuring that funds are used efficiently and for their intended purposes, the country can build trust with donors and investors, thereby securing more substantial and consistent financial support for climate initiatives.

Recommendation 3: Integrate climate change considerations into national development planning for sustainable progress: This entails embedding climate resilience and mitigation strategies into national and sectoral development plans, policies, and programs. Promoting policy coherence and alignment is necessary to avoid fragmentation and duplication of efforts, ensuring that all sectors work towards common climate goals. This integration will also help mainstream climate action into broader development agendas, making it a core component of the country's growth strategy.

Recommendation 4: Promote climate-smart agriculture and renewable energy for building a resilient and sustainable economy: Expanding programs that advocate for sustainable agricultural practices and renewable energy

technologies can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance food security. Providing incentives and support for the adoption of climate-smart agricultural techniques and renewable energy systems will encourage widespread uptake and innovations in these areas.

Recommendation 5: Strengthen climate governance and policy implementation by building the capacity of key institutions and stakeholders through targeted capacity-building initiatives: This will ensure that they are well-equipped to develop and enforce climate policies. Inclusive stakeholder engagement processes should be fostered, ensuring representation from all relevant sectors and communities, including marginalized and vulnerable groups. Promoting public awareness and education on climate change will help build support for policy measures and encourage behaviour change, creating a more informed and proactive populace ready to tackle climate challenges.

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