



WESTERN AFRICA NDC IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING AND TRACKING SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP

NDC SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP REPORT

Event Date:

26th June 2024

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Date:

27th June 2024

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1. Introduction

On June 25th, 2024, a pivotal sensitization workshop was conducted, marking a significant step in the project "*Building the Capacity of Selected Sub-Saharan African Countries to Effectively Measure Progress in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Implementation Using Tracking Tools and Indexes.*" This workshop is a critical component of the ongoing efforts to enhance the capabilities of Sub-Saharan African nations in monitoring and reporting their climate action commitments. Over 42 people, drawn from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone, attended this virtual event.

1.1 Background and Rationale

Over the past four decades, global surface temperatures have been steadily rising, as documented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2021. This warming trend has had particularly severe consequences for West Africa, where the impacts on both the environment and human livelihoods are pronounced. According to Asongu et al. (2021), rising temperatures correlate with intensified environmental and socioeconomic challenges in the region. West Africa has experienced heightened precipitation and drought patterns (Oduro et al., 2020), significant biodiversity loss, coastal erosion, and increased desertification, all contributing to profound socioeconomic disruptions.

Rapid population growth in West Africa exacerbates these issues by amplifying food demand. Severe droughts and excessive rainfall in some areas have led to acute food insecurity, undermining efforts to achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 of eradicating hunger by 2030 (Arndt et al., 2021). The IPCC Working Group I report, "Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis," warns that without swift and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the world is likely to surpass the critical 1.5°C global warming threshold in the coming decades. Although Africa contributes minimally to global warming, both in absolute and per capita terms, it remains the most vulnerable continent to climate change impacts. West Africa is already experiencing extreme weather events such as wildfires, droughts, and floods, which are expected to intensify with the projected tripling of the continent's population by 2050.

Global efforts to address climate-induced challenges have led to the establishment of several key international frameworks, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of 1994, the Kyoto Protocol of 1997, and the Paris Agreement of 2015. These agreements, from the Rio Summit in 1992 to the Paris Agreement during the Conference of Parties (COP) 21, aim to curb greenhouse gas emissions. The Paris Agreement, a legally binding treaty based on voluntary national submissions, represents a significant milestone in global climate negotiations, emphasizing shared responsibility in combating rising greenhouse gas levels.

A central element of the Paris Agreement is the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which require countries to outline their planned climate actions over five-year periods, addressing adaptation, mitigation, and implementation strategies. Despite limited guidance on incorporating

climate adaptation in NDCs, many African countries have identified strategies to meet their mitigation and adaptation needs. This approach is critical given the region's high vulnerability to climate risks due to its geographical position, dependence on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and tourism, resource and infrastructure deficits, and limited adaptive capacity.

The West African countries involved in this project, including the 3 nations under study, are Parties to the UNFCCC and its relevant protocols, including the Paris Agreement. Over the past 26 years, these countries have actively participated in COP processes and negotiations to promote global greenhouse gas emission reductions through national programs and projects. However, reviews of submitted NDCs reveal significant challenges in tracking and reporting implementation progress, often due to over-reliance on secondary data, lack of capacity, financial constraints, and the complexities of implementing time-bound, cross-sectional plans. These obstacles hinder Africa's transition to a low-carbon, resilient pathway and its ability to advocate effectively for differentiated responsibilities in climate negotiations (Sanou et al., 2020; Pauw et al., 2019).

Recognizing these challenges, regional development bodies, research institutions, technical experts, civil society, and other key stakeholders in the West African climate change arena have sought to address these issues and facilitate successful NDC implementation. A standardized framework is essential to support countries in accelerating their NDC implementation. The Paris Agreement sets guidelines for implementing and communicating NDC efforts, ensuring that each country's successive NDCs reflect heightened ambition and align with their specific national circumstances.

The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), established under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, plays a crucial role in this process by enhancing the existing Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) arrangements under the UNFCCC. Data collected and reported through the ETF can be used both domestically and internationally to assess progress towards national NDC goals. Effective implementation of the ETF is vital for tracking and demonstrating NDC progress in accordance with international expectations.

Against this backdrop, the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) and its partners developed and piloted an NDC implementation monitoring tool and index in 2019. This tool measures NDC implementation status across five components: Governance, Finance, Mitigation, Adaptation, and MRV. The index identifies areas where countries excel or need improvement, facilitating informed policy decisions and promoting comparability among nations. This can spur healthy competition and enhance compliance based on the index results.

1.2 Goals and Objectives of the Workshop and outputs

The Stakeholder Sensitization Workshop aimed to enhance stakeholder understanding and engagement in NDC implementation and monitoring, fostering a collaborative approach to achieving climate targets. The specific objectives were:

- a) To inform stakeholders about the project's objectives, activities, and expected impacts.

- b) To build the capacity of stakeholders in using NDC implementation monitoring and tracking tools.
- c) To foster a collaborative environment for stakeholders to share insights, experiences, and best practices in NDC implementation.

1.3 Expected Outputs

- a) Increased awareness and understanding of NDCs and their importance among stakeholders.
- b) Enhanced capacity of stakeholders to utilize NDC monitoring and tracking tools.
- c) Strengthened collaboration and networking among key stakeholders.

2. Sensitization on NDC Implementation Monitoring Using Tracking Tools and Indices

2.1 Introduction to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Mr. Alfred Nyambane began the first session by explaining the concept of NDCs, which are climate pledges made by countries under the Paris Agreement. These commitments encompass both mitigation and adaptation measures across various sectors. NDCs are crucial for limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, with a more ambitious target of 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. The workshop highlighted the genesis and purpose of NDCs, rooted in the Paris Agreement of 2015, evolving from the Kyoto Protocol's framework for emission limitation and reduction commitments.

2.2 Components of NDCs

Mr. Allen of WAGEDI guided the participants through the different components of NDCs, which include quantitative targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, qualitative goals like resilience building, and long-term objectives such as achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. He emphasized the importance of setting both mitigation and adaptation targets, highlighting examples such as emission reduction targets, renewable energy goals, and enhancing adaptive capacities.

The workshop covered various approaches to implementing NDCs, including top-down strategies where central governments set goals cascaded to sub-national levels, and bottom-up approaches where local governments develop contributions based on their circumstances. Sectoral approaches focus on specific sectors like energy or agriculture. The facilitator stressed the importance of national policy and regulatory frameworks, climate legislation, and integrating NDC objectives into existing national plans.

A critical component discussed was the MRV framework, essential for enhancing transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement in NDC implementation. MRV involves collecting data on emissions and adaptation actions, compiling comprehensive progress reports, and independent verification to ensure accuracy. The facilitator pointed out that effective MRV fosters trust among nations and improves policy design through insights gained from data.

The facilitator provided an overview of the financing mechanisms available for NDC implementation, which include multilateral climate funds, private sector investments, and domestic resource mobilization. Emphasis was placed on the importance of climate finance, involving grants, loans, equity investments, and technical assistance to address both mitigation and adaptation challenges. The workshop also covered the institutional arrangements necessary for coordinating climate finance activities, ensuring transparency and accountability.

2.3 The Role of stakeholders in NDC implementation and tracking

The presentation by Hope Okuthe from PACJA emphasized the critical role of various stakeholders in the effective tracking and implementation of NDCs. She categorized the stakeholders in the manner below:

2.3.1 Key Stakeholders in NDC Tracking and Implementation:

- **Government Agencies:** These entities are pivotal in providing leadership and coordination for NDC processes. They integrate stakeholder input into policy and decision-making, organize stakeholder engagements, and ensure transparency and inclusivity. Governments also focus on capacity building to mainstream gender equality and social inclusion, and they play a crucial role in data collection and reporting.
- **Private Sector:** The private sector contributes significantly through investment, innovation, and research. It engages in green investments, offers innovative solutions for NDC implementation, and collaborates with governments and other stakeholders to co-design climate action strategies. Aligning business practices with NDC goals is also emphasized.
- **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** These organizations are essential for advocacy and mobilization. They advocate for inclusive climate action, mobilize community participation, and ensure that marginalized groups are included in the NDC process. Additionally, they hold governments and corporations accountable for their commitments.
- **Academic and Research Institutions:** These institutions provide expertise, conduct research, and develop innovative solutions to address climate change. They contribute to the development of indicators and monitoring and evaluation systems, as well as engage in training and education initiatives to support effective stakeholder participation.
- **International Organizations:** These organizations offer technical assistance, funding, and guidance to support national governments and stakeholders in the NDC process. They ensure that engagement processes align with international standards and obligations.

2.3.2 Benefits of Stakeholder Participation

During the workshop, Ms. Hope emphasized that engaging stakeholders in the implementation and tracking of NDCs offers numerous benefits that can significantly enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of climate action initiatives. She also noted that stakeholder participation improves

coordination and collaboration across different sectors. This inclusive approach ensures that policies and actions are well-aligned with the needs and capabilities of all relevant parties, fostering a more cohesive and unified effort towards climate goals. Additionally, she also mentioned that stakeholder engagement enhances policy and decision-making processes. By incorporating diverse perspectives and expertise, governments can develop more comprehensive and robust strategies. This inclusivity leads to policies that are not only better informed but also more likely to gain broad support and successful implementation.

She shed light on transparency and accountability by showing how they bolstered active stakeholder involvement. When stakeholders are engaged in the planning and monitoring stages, it creates a system of checks and balances that holds all parties accountable for their commitments. This transparency is crucial for building trust among the public and ensuring that actions are genuinely directed towards achieving NDC targets. It was further noted that social inclusion and equity are another vital benefit. Effective stakeholder engagement ensures that marginalized and vulnerable groups have a voice in climate actions. This inclusivity is essential for ensuring that climate policies are fair and equitable, addressing the needs of those most affected by climate change.

2.3.3 Challenges and Barriers

Despite its many benefits, Ms. Okuthe acknowledged several significant challenges to effective stakeholder engagement. One primary obstacle discussed was the limited awareness and understanding of NDCs among stakeholders. Many potential participants may not fully grasp the importance of NDCs or how they can contribute, which hinders meaningful involvement. Additionally, there are often inadequate technical, financial, and capacity resources to support stakeholder engagement. Many organizations and communities lack the necessary tools, knowledge, or funding to participate effectively, which can lead to a reliance on a small number of well-resourced entities, skewing the process. Institutional barriers also pose a significant challenge. Bureaucratic inefficiencies, lack of coordination among government departments, and rigid administrative processes can stifle stakeholder engagement efforts. These barriers can prevent timely and effective communication and collaboration.

Another critical issue raised was the insufficient data accessibility and sharing mechanisms. Effective engagement relies on the availability of accurate and timely data. When data is not readily accessible, it becomes difficult for stakeholders to make informed contributions or monitor progress effectively. Competing priorities and limited incentives for engagement further complicate the process. Stakeholders, especially those in the private sector or with limited resources, may prioritize other urgent issues over climate action. Without clear incentives or recognized benefits, it can be challenging to secure their sustained involvement. Cultural and social barriers were also identified as impediments to engagement. Differences in language, values, and social norms can create misunderstandings and mistrust between stakeholders, making it difficult to establish effective communication and collaboration channels.

2.3.4 Strategies for Effective Stakeholder Engagement

To overcome these challenges and harness the benefits of stakeholder engagement, Ms. Okuthe proffered several strategies during the discussions. One crucial strategy that was recommended was early and continuous engagement of stakeholders. By involving stakeholders from the outset and maintaining ongoing communication, trust and mutual understanding can be built, facilitating smoother collaboration. Targeted awareness-raising and capacity-building activities were deemed essential. Educating stakeholders about the importance of NDCs and providing them with the skills and knowledge necessary to participate effectively can significantly enhance their engagement. Tailored training programs and workshops can address specific needs and gaps.

The establishment of multistakeholder platforms and networks for collaboration was also highlighted as highly effective. These platforms provide a structured environment for different stakeholders to come together, share insights, and coordinate actions. They can serve as forums for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and joint planning. Developing clear guidelines and frameworks for stakeholder engagement was another critical strategy discussed. These guidelines outlined roles, responsibilities, and processes for engagement, ensuring that all parties understand how they can contribute and what is expected of them. Clear frameworks can also help streamline interactions and reduce bureaucratic hurdles.

Improving data management and sharing systems was identified as vital for informed decision-making and monitoring. Creating accessible databases and information-sharing portals can enable stakeholders to access the data they need to participate effectively and track progress. Transparency in data sharing builds trust and accountability.

Finally, providing incentives and recognition for stakeholder contributions was suggested as a means to motivate sustained engagement. Financial incentives, public recognition, or formal acknowledgment of contributions can encourage stakeholders to prioritize NDC-related activities and remain committed to the process.

Implementing these strategies can possibly help to overcome the challenges of stakeholder engagement and fully realize its benefits, ultimately leading to more effective and inclusive climate action. Ms. Okuthe concluded the presentation by underscoring the importance of inclusive stakeholder engagement in shaping NDCs. She emphasized that meaningful and lasting climate action requires the inclusion of all voices in the decision-making process. This is a call to action for all stakeholders to foster an inclusive and participatory approach to climate governance.

2.4 Tracking NDC Implementation Using the NDC Index Tool

Mr. Nyambane who facilitated the session provided an in-depth explanation of the NDC Implementation Tracking Tool developed by the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) and its partners. This tool is pivotal for effectively measuring the progress of NDCs in the 12 selected Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries. Here's a detailed breakdown of the tool and its functionalities as presented during the workshop:

2.4.1 Purpose and Rationale

The NDC Implementation Tracking Tool was designed to address the complexities and challenges faced by SSA countries in monitoring and reporting their climate commitments. With the lack of robust mechanisms to track the progress of NDCs, this tool aims to provide a standardized and transparent method to evaluate and enhance the implementation of NDCs across different countries.

2.4.2 Key Components of the Tool

- a) **Governance:** This component assesses the institutional frameworks and governance structures in place to support NDC implementation. It includes indicators such as the presence of a national coordinating body, legal and policy frameworks, and stakeholder engagement processes. Governance is crucial as it ensures that there is a coherent and coordinated approach to implementing climate policies and actions.
- b) **Finance:** This component evaluates the financial resources allocated for NDC implementation. It examines both domestic and international funding sources, budget allocations, and the effectiveness of financial mechanisms in supporting mitigation and adaptation activities. Adequate and sustained financing is essential for the successful execution of NDCs.
- c) **Mitigation:** This component tracks the progress of mitigation actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It includes indicators such as the implementation of renewable energy projects, energy efficiency measures, and reforestation programs. The tool assesses whether the planned mitigation actions are on track and contributing to the overall emission reduction targets.
- d) **Adaptation:** This component measures the efforts made to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity to climate impacts. Indicators include the development and implementation of adaptation plans, infrastructure improvements to withstand climate extremes, and community-based adaptation initiatives. Adaptation is critical for SSA countries due to their high vulnerability to climate change.
- e) **Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV):** This component ensures that there is a systematic process for tracking progress, reporting outcomes, and verifying the accuracy of data. It includes the establishment of MRV systems, regular reporting to national and international bodies, and third-party verification processes. MRV enhances transparency and accountability in NDC implementation.

2.4.3 Functionality of the Tool

Mr. Nyambane demonstrated how the tool operates through a structured and user-friendly interface. Key functionalities include:

- **Data Collection:** The tool allows for the systematic collection of data related to each component. Countries can input relevant information, which is then used to generate performance indicators.
- **Performance Indicators:** The tool calculates performance indicators for each component on a scale from 1 (very poor) to 5 (outstanding). These indicators provide a snapshot of how well a country is performing in various aspects of NDC implementation.
- **Weighted Scores:** Each indicator is assigned a weight based on its importance. The tool aggregates these weighted scores to provide an overall performance rating for each country.
- **Comparative Analysis:** The tool enables comparative analysis among countries, promoting healthy competition and knowledge sharing. Countries can learn from each other's best practices and areas needing improvement.
- **Reporting:** The tool generates comprehensive reports that can be used for national planning, policy formulation, and international reporting requirements. These reports highlight strengths and weaknesses, guiding targeted interventions.

2.4.4 Benefits of the Tool

- **Enhanced Transparency:** By providing a clear and systematic method for tracking NDC progress, the tool enhances transparency and builds trust among stakeholders.
- **Improved Accountability:** Regular monitoring and reporting ensure that countries remain accountable for their climate commitments.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** The data generated by the tool supports informed decision-making, enabling policymakers to allocate resources effectively and prioritize actions.
- **Capacity Building:** The use of the tool builds the capacity of national institutions and stakeholders in climate monitoring and reporting.
- **Motivation for Progress:** The comparative analysis feature motivates countries to improve their performance, fostering a spirit of competition and collaboration.

2.4.5 Implementation and Training

Mr. Nyambane emphasized the importance of training stakeholders on the effective use of the tool. The workshop included hands-on sessions where participants learned how to input data, interpret indicators, and generate reports. Continuous support and capacity-building initiatives are planned to ensure that all countries can fully utilize the tool and integrate it into their national climate strategies.

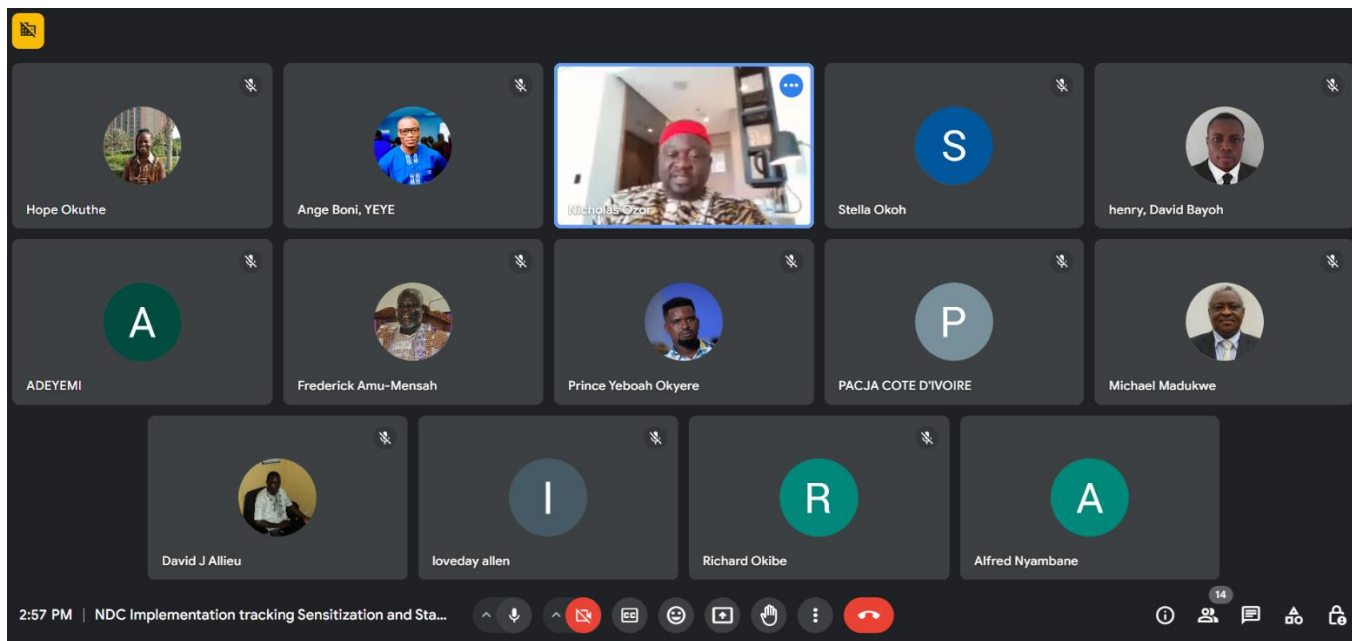


Plate 1: Participants who attended the virtual workshop

3. Conclusion

The West African Workshop concluded by remarks by Mr. Nyambane, ATPS programme manager who opined that the session had been a pivotal event in our collective efforts to advance the implementation and monitoring of NDCs across the region. He further stated that the workshop successfully convened key stakeholders, fostering a spirit of collaboration, enhancing understanding, and building capacity for effective climate action. The discussions were insightful and highlighted crucial areas for improvement, including the need for better integration of climate policies at the sectoral level and the enhancement of monitoring tools to ensure accurate and measurable progress.

He extended the consortium's heartfelt gratitude to all participants for their active engagement, valuable contributions, and dedication throughout the workshop. He lauded their insights and feedback as instrumental in shaping the future of climate initiatives. He closed by reaffirming the consortiums commitment to working closely with focal persons in each participating country in West Africa, ensuring that the implementation process is both inclusive and effective. He further stated that the consortium was open to constructive iterations and welcomed any suggestions that would benefit the project and enhance its impact.

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Appendix

Appendix A: Workshop Programme



NDC SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Time	Activity	Lead
10:00	Registration and introductions	Alfred Nyambane
10:10 - 10:30	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ATPS- Prof. Nicholas Ozor• PACJA- Charles Mwangi• WAGEDI- Prof Chidi Magnus	
10:30 - 10:45	Overview of the Project and Objectives	Wentland Muhatiah
10:45 - 11:15	Understanding NDCs and its components	Prof Chidi Magnus
11:15 - 11:45	NDC Monitoring and Tracking Tools, developing NDC indexes and data collection processes	Alfred Nyambane
12:15 - 12:45	The Role of stakeholders in NDC implementation and tracking	Hope Okuthe
12:45 - 13:15	Question and answer session	Alfred Nyambane
13:15 - 13:30	Closing remarks and next steps	Prof. Nicholas Ozor