



MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
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Gender Mainstreaming in Côte d'Ivoire's National Adaptation Plan Process from 2018 to 2023

Progress, good practices, and lessons learned

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Adaptation is one of the main solutions to climate change, which affects natural resources (such as water and vegetation), human activity (agriculture, livestock breeding, etc.) and human beings themselves (in terms of health, nutrition, and other priorities). Climate change manifests itself differently depending on region, culture, education, beliefs, and gender. Consequently, because of pre-existing gender inequality, climate change does not affect men and women in the same way, and adaptation needs to take this into account.

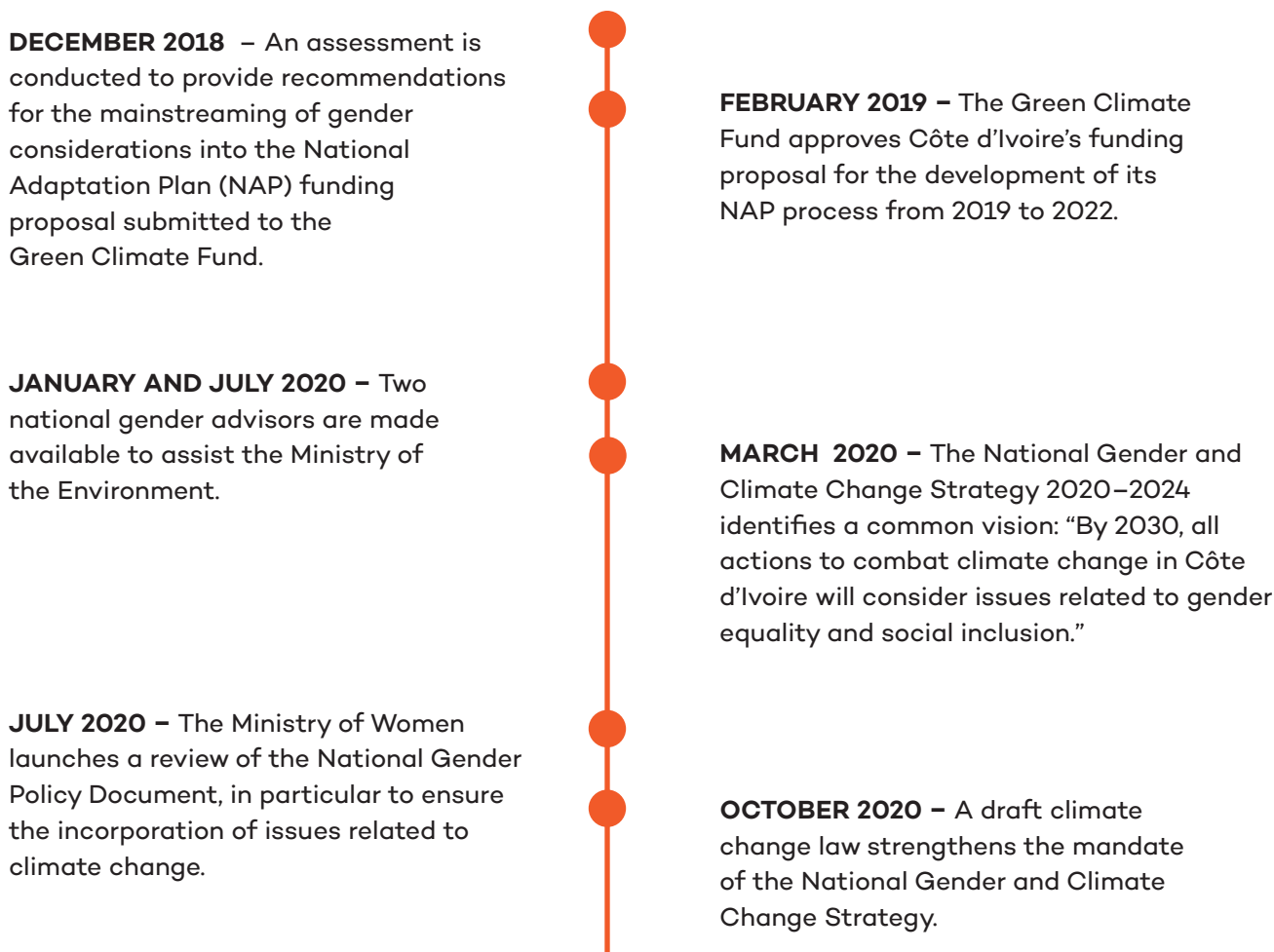
In Côte d'Ivoire, the gender approach is recognized as essential for reaching the desired outcomes in terms of development, social and economic change, and the fight against climate change. The ratification of international, national, and regional instruments promoting the institutionalization of gender in the public, semi-public, and private sectors illustrates the importance attached to this approach. This countrywide commitment is reflected in the work of the Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and the Ecological Transition (MINEDDTE), which has at its disposal a Gender and Social Inclusion Unit within the National Climate Change Programme as well as a gender focal point. Several other gender-related structures work on the gender-climate nexus, including the Directorate of Gender and Equity at the Ministry of Women, Family and Children (MFFE), the National Observatory for Equity and Gender, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization Chair in Water, Women, and Decision-Making Power.

This document aims to highlight the actions and best practices in the field of gender and climate change that are likely to gain widespread acceptance and encourage climate change stakeholders to implement them.

Key Developments in Gender Mainstreaming in Côte d'Ivoire's National Adaptation Plan Process

Since 2018, Côte d'Ivoire has implemented over 30 impactful activities that have helped accelerate the gender responsiveness of climate action in policy documents, institutional arrangements, capacity strengthening, as well as partnerships and collaborative efforts between gender actors and climate change actors (MINEDDTE, 2023). Table 1 lists the most important activities.

Figure 1. Key milestones in gender-responsive climate action in Côte d'Ivoire from 2018 to 2023



DECEMBER 2020 – The revision of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) takes gender into account as a cross-cutting theme in priority sectors.

JULY 2021 – Study on the mainstreaming of climate change issues into the National Policy on Equal Opportunity, Equity, and Gender of Côte d'Ivoire.

MARCH 2022 – Mainstreaming of gender issues into the NDCs and participation in the national activities of International Women's Day 2022 with the MFFE on the topic of Gender and Climate.

APRIL 2023 – Workshop #2 on mainstreaming gender into the NAP document.

JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2023 – Mid-term assessment of the National Gender and Climate Change Strategy.

APRIL 2021 – Training of the gender focal points and climate change focal points on gender-responsive climate change action.

OCTOBER 2021 – Signing of a memorandum of understanding between the MINEDDTE and the MFFE, and assessment study conducted on the potential of women in rural communities to implement climate change adaptation measures.

NOVEMBER 2022 – Workshop #1 on mainstreaming gender into the NAP document.

JULY 2023 – Workshop on the institutionalization of the National Gender and Climate Change Platform (PNGCC) through an interministerial decree.

NOVEMBER 2023 – Communication and outreach strategy for a gender-responsive NAP in Côte d'Ivoire.

Source: Update of the infographic titled [Gender Mainstreaming in Climate Change Action in Côte d'Ivoire - Key milestones from 2018 to 2020](#) (NAP Global Network & MINEDDTE, 2021) based on the list of activities supplied by the National Climate Change Programme.

Outcomes Achieved

The efforts undertaken in Côte d'Ivoire since 2018 have had noteworthy results. The dynamism of the Gender and Social Inclusion Unit of the National Climate Change Programme, the creation of the PNGCC, and the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the ministries dealing, respectively, with gender and environmental issues, are the main catalysts of the progress made with regard to gender and climate change in Côte d'Ivoire. This institutionalization facilitates the sharing of information among the various stakeholders, promotes a holistic approach to the topic, and encourages inclusive participation in the political processes related to climate change. These advances have, in particular, led to the following outcomes:

- Gender is mainstreamed in a cross-cutting fashion into the NAP document that is currently being finalized. Items of special note are the reference to gender in the primary objective of the NAP and in a number of adaptation options, the creation of several gender-sensitive indicators, and the presence of the MFFE, the National Observatory for Equity and Gender, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization Chair in Water, Women, and Decision-Making Power among the key actors. The National Gender and Climate Change Strategy has also been referred to on several occasions.
- Climate change is now mentioned in the National Policy on Equal Opportunity, Equity, and Gender of Côte d'Ivoire.
- Gender has been mainstreamed into several policy documents drawn up for high priority sectors, notably in the domains of forestry, protected areas, and transportation.



Workshop to integrate gender in the Côte d'Ivoire's National Adaptation Plan.

Good Practices for Mainstreaming Gender Into the NAP Process

The recent mid-term assessment of the National Gender and Climate Change Strategy has enabled the identification of a number of good practices, namely “steps or processes that appear to have worked well and could be replicable” (United Nations Children’s Fund, 2021). These good practices related to the institutional and technical components of the NAP should ensure the integration of gender responsiveness into the climate policies of Côte d’Ivoire and other countries involved in the NAP process.



Establishing an Official Agreement Between the Ministries in Charge of Adaptation and Gender Issues

The signing of a memorandum of understanding between the respective ministries responsible for environmental and gender issues has provided a strong foundation for collaboration between the two ministries and for the definition of common objectives. Also, in order to promote the gender and climate process sustainably on a national scale, the institutionalization of the PNGCC through an interministerial decree is currently under consideration.



Signature of the MoU between Ms Nassénéba TOURÉ, Minister of Women, Family and Children, and M. Jean-Luc ASSI, Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development. 25 October 2021.



Creating and Moderating One or More Multistakeholder Platforms Dealing With Gender and Climate Issues

The creation of the National Gender and Climate Change Platform has facilitated collaboration among a wider group of gender and climate actors. The Gender and Social Inclusion Unit's focus on setting goals, establishing an action plan, and organizing regular meetings constitutes good practice and helps to make this platform operational and useful.

An independent Agricultural Gender Platform initiated by the Interprofessional Fund for Agricultural Research has also been created. It complements the work undertaken by the National Gender and Climate Change Platform regarding gender and climate change issues in both the agriculture, forestry, and livestock sector and the fisheries sector. The existence of sectoral platforms is an asset that promotes these topics within the priority sectors and brings together a greater number of stakeholders.



Fourth meeting of the National Gender and Climate Change Platform with the participation of representatives from Senegal and the Central African Republic..



Organizing Dedicated NAP Writing Sessions Devoted to Gender Issues for the Various Gender Experts and Focal Points

In addition to the participation of several gender experts in the different meetings to prepare the NAP document, the National Gender and Climate Change Platform met twice to work specifically on mainstreaming gender into the NAP document. The time allotted to gender issues significantly strengthened the proposals made on this topic in the final NAP document.



Raising the Awareness and Building the Capacity of the Various Stakeholders on Gender and Adaptation Issues on a Continuous Basis and in View of Reaching as Many Actors as Possible

It is important to regularly build stakeholder capacity on gender and climate issues, given that the subject is constantly evolving and a certain degree of team renewal is observed.

Gender-sensitive communication campaigns are also important. For example, Côte d'Ivoire has undertaken a campaign focusing on integrating women into the water and forestry professions and enrolling them in forestry schools. Another campaign was also conducted on the use of better inputs, biological products, and organic fertilizers that address climate change impacts and gender issues in the field of agriculture.

Training materials for the use of entrepreneurs, workers, and training institutes have also been developed. They deal with the technical, political, and managerial issues related to the integration of women into the priority sectors laid out in the NDCs. This provision of open-access training content also makes it possible to reach a larger number of people.



Climate change training workshop for civil society actors working on gender.



Implementing Standards for Gender Mainstreaming

The establishment of common indicator tables, procedural manuals, and guidelines for gender mainstreaming allows a shared understanding of the minimum criteria to be respected for gender mainstreaming and increases the impact of the projects implemented.



Building on the Existing Legal and Political Framework for the Promotion of Gender Equality

In Côte d'Ivoire, the National Policy on Equal Opportunity, Equity and Gender is an important framework that guides the action of the ministries related to the priority sectors. The inclusion of climate change in each of the strategic areas of focus of the National Gender Policy Document demands that the gender-climate nexus be taken into account in every sector. It is, therefore, important to build on this framework in order to define how adaptation is to be mainstreamed into the gender-related activities carried out by the sectoral ministries and to ensure greater consistency and understanding of the requirements in this regard.



Mainstreaming Gender Into the Data Collection System

The involvement of men, women, girls, and boys in adaptation activities must be measured using gender-disaggregated indicators. This method improves the visibility of the measurable indicators in the assessment process, enabling any observed gender inequalities to be corrected to a certain extent.

Lessons Learned

The mid-term assessment of the National Gender and Climate Change Strategy generated learning through dialogues and discussions with the consulted parties about good practices and areas requiring improvement; the analysis of the various documents shared with the consultants was also useful. These lessons learned have, in turn, made it possible to identify several recommendations for informing the next steps of the implementation and renewal of this strategy and also, where appropriate, for helping other actors execute similar strategies.

The National Gender and Climate Change Strategy provides an added value with respect to climate change and the reduction of gender inequalities in Côte d'Ivoire. Moreover, it was launched relatively early compared to other countries' gender- and climate-related strategies. It has thus served as an example for a number of French-speaking nations.

It could have been improved by using a results-oriented approach and by being budgeted. To accelerate the implementation of this type of strategy, it is important to arrange regular and transparent follow-up with all stakeholders, particularly those with a responsibility for implementing it.

The existence of technical and financial partners who are interested in these issues and are available to support the various stakeholders (in government but also civil society and research organizations or the private sector) makes it possible to address these questions over the long term and to thus achieve better outcomes.

It is crucial to rely on the collective expertise of gender experts in government and civil society. The presence of gender focal points within national state structures provides contacts with the priority sectoral ministries for disseminating gender and climate information, training personnel, setting standards, and so on. Gender experts in civil society or research organizations can also make a technical contribution to the development of adaptation tools or policies and facilitate capacity building from the local level up to the national level.

Recommendations

To accelerate the mainstreaming of gender into Côte d'Ivoire's climate policies, it would be important to

- develop a resource mobilization strategy in order to ensure the sustainable funding of gender- and climate-related activities and thereby identify a number of technical and financial partners that would be prepared to support this approach over time;
- strengthen the monitoring mechanisms for the strategy with the actors who are listed as having a role and an interest in the execution of the action plan;
- link the National Gender and Climate Change Platform more closely with national climate governance entities. In particular, actors in civil society organizations involved with gender and climate change issues need to be better integrated within the institutional processes related to the NAP because they can provide additional expertise on the topic during the planning stage but can also assist with the implementation of gender- and climate-related activities from the local level up to the national level;
- include, as part of the capacity-strengthening sessions, the fostering of awareness among leaders and decision-makers of issues related to harmful social norms and gender inequalities, in view of improving access and encouraging more effective participation for a greater number of women in the decision-making bodies focusing on climate change adaptation matters. Indeed, strengthening the capacities of women is necessary but not sufficient;
- strengthen communication so that good practices related to gender and climate change can be disseminated and, subsequently, tested in all sectors and by all actors. In particular, the inception of innovative “Ecogender” awards given out to the best gender and climate change practitioners could help disseminate these good practices. It is also important to communicate the specific impacts experienced by women and men when gender responsiveness is integrated into climate change adaptation programs.

Conclusion

Since 2018, Côte d'Ivoire has implemented numerous initiatives dealing with gender and climate change. The momentum of action and the involvement of a variety of actors from different sectors demonstrate an awareness of the growing seriousness of climate hazards and a strong commitment to confronting these hazards, with gender issues being taken into account. Political structures and authorities, who have recognized the importance of the gender-climate nexus, are attempting to mainstream these issues into their respective sectors in a cross-cutting manner. The synergy and good cooperation displayed by the various sectors in favour of concerted action have contributed greatly to this success. That said, much remains to be done if things are to move faster and further. Increased involvement of women and youth in relevant decision making, as well as more substantial funding, will extend and intensify the actions undertaken, thereby making adaptation more efficient and more inclusive.



Workshop to validate the report of the mid-term evaluation of the National Gender and Climate Change Strategy (2020-2024).

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