



The agroecology newsletter

November 2022 · Special COP 27 edition

It is urgent to act!



IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT AFRICA is not responsible for global warming, but it is one of the main victims!

Long before global warming became a matter of global concern, West Africa had to face the impacts of climate variability and change alone. Everyone is also aware that the slow pace of reform in developed and emerging countries — those that emit the most carbon — already makes the prospects of containing the rise in global temperatures to below 1.5-degrees more than illusory.

Faced with this situation, West African agricultures are more threatened than ever. They have to cope with exceptional climatic phenomena as well as a drop in yields induced by global warming. And this at a time when they need to triple their food production over the next 25 years to meet demand boosted by population growth and urbanisation!

West Africa must achieve this feat while preserving its soils, waters, biodiversity, coastal zones... It must do so by deploying its energy supply to transform agricultural systems and ensure the storage, processing and distribution of food products. It must do so by improving the health and safety of its populations.

So many issues cannot be “cut up”. Agro-ecology allows us to face them together and to provide responses that are consistent with the climate strategy adopted by the region and with the international commitments made by the region’s States.

Now is the time to deliver on commitments and to redouble action. Every day we lose takes us further away from our ability to meet these common global, regional and local challenges. Every day we lose increases tensions, conflicts, migrations, and disruptions caused by climate change.

Our immediate challenge is to mobilise research, training, warning and information systems, and advisory support in order to provide transition paths towards sustainable agriculture and concrete technical and economic solutions to tens of millions of producers. We are fully committed to this.

“Climate finance” must rise to the challenge of providing financial and risk management services to all West African agricultural and food actors to enable them to make the necessary agro-ecological transition. This is the price we will have to pay if we are to avoid these many perils.

Sy Alain Traoré

Director of Agriculture and Rural Development
ECOWAS Commission

One number

**Fertilizer prices
have almost doubled
in the last year
in the ECOWAS zone**



In this issue



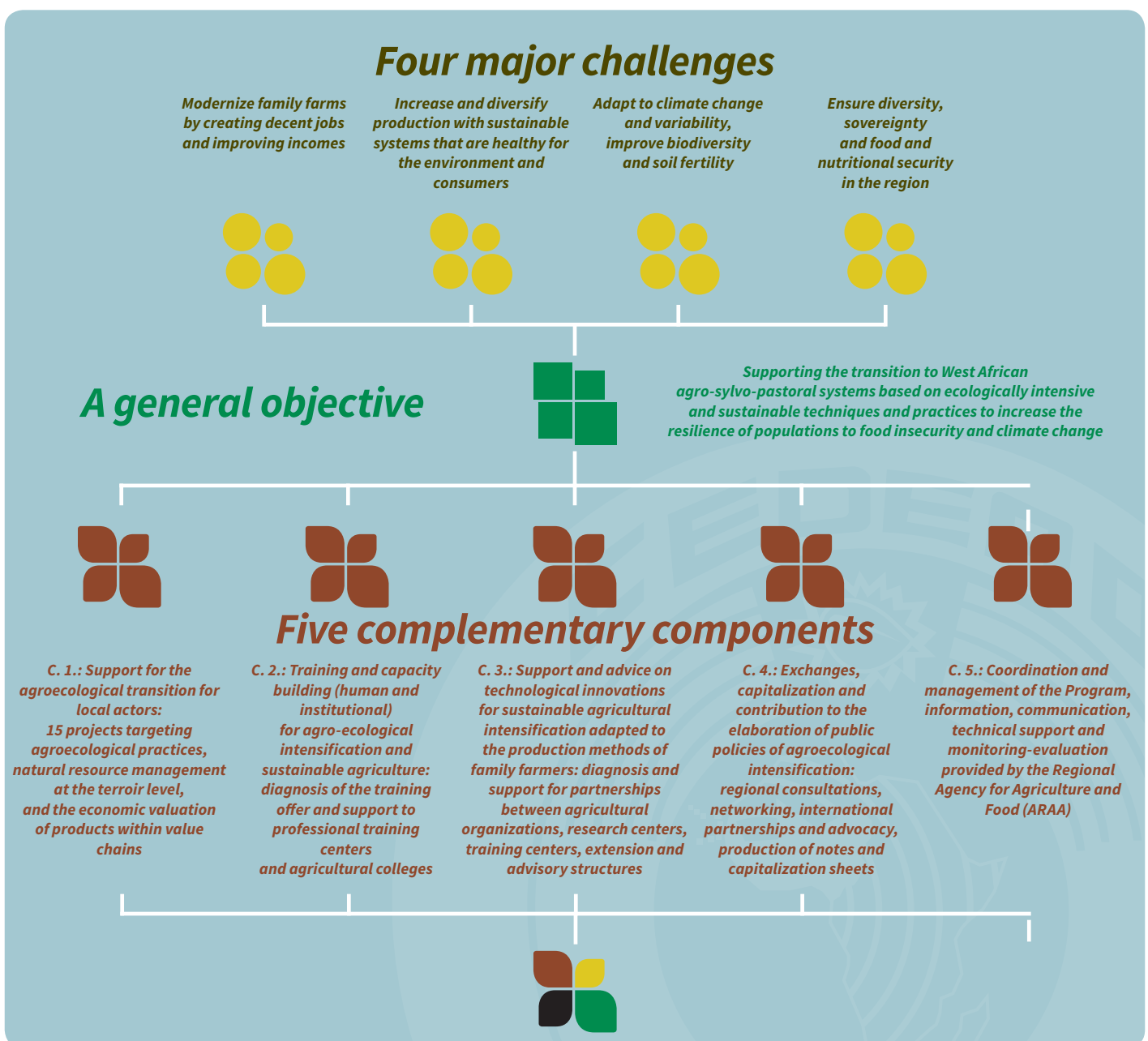
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Agroécologie at the heart of food and climate issues

It is in a context of chronic food and nutritional insecurity aggravated by the effects of climate change that the Agroecology Program was initiated by ECOWAS in its fifteen member states. It aims to support family farms in an agro-ecological transition, adapting their production systems to enable them to reconcile economic performance, food security, strengthening resilience, and preserving the environment and the health of the population.

Financed to the tune of €16.2 million by the EU and AFD, it is currently based on the integrated implementation of two complementary projects: the Support Project for the Agroecological Transition in West Africa and the Support Project for the Dissemination and Implementation of Good Practices for Sustainable Agricultural Intensification.

The Agroecology Program in brief!



The EAP: Seven principles, four expected outcomes

The intervention strategy is based on seven main principles:

1. Participation and empowerment of local actors as a basis for interventions.
2. Diversification of support approaches for local producers and actors.
3. Collective action as an approach to co-designing innovations.
4. Advisory support and diffusion of innovations as the main lever for the adoption of technological innovations.
5. Capacity building and the deployment of a network of training centers allowing producers in the region to participate in an inclusive manner in the co-construction of knowledge.
6. Exchange of experiences to generate new knowledge and enrich lessons.
7. The capitalization of knowledge.

The expected results of the program are as follows:

1. Farmers' collectives and rural communities are accompanied towards an agroecological intensification.
2. Knowledge and good practices of agroecology, sustainable agricultural intensification and ecologically intensive agriculture are promoted in the training schemes.
3. Technological innovations for sustainable agricultural intensification adapted to small producers are popularized.
4. The experiences are capitalized, integrated and promoted in agricultural policies.

How is the ECOWAS Agroecology program implemented?



ECOWAS' integrated approach

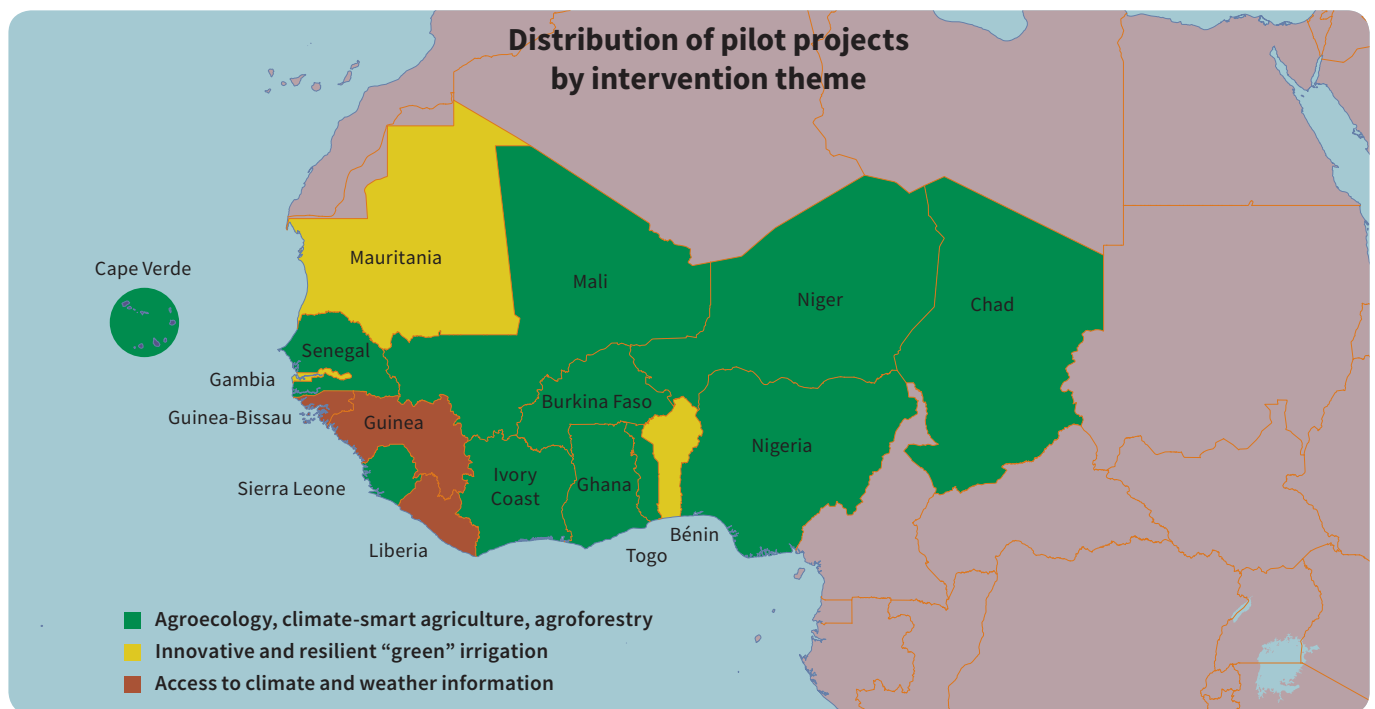
With the support of its partners in the international community, ECOWAS is deploying several development programs that converge in their objectives: mitigating global warming and adapting agricultural and food systems to the consequences of climate change.

For ECOWAS, it is a matter of working in a coherent, complementary and simultaneous manner on all dimensions: integrating climate issues (emission mitigation, adaptation of agri-food systems), strengthening the resilience of populations, intensifying production on sustainable socio-economic and environmental bases to increase West Africa's food sovereignty, and finally, enabling the latter to carry weight in international climate negotiations.

Most of the programs deployed within the framework of the regional agricultural policy (ECOWAP) and environmental policy (ECOWEP) now include, regardless of their main objectives, issues related to climate change mitigation and adaptation and the promotion of related risk management tools (strengthening weather detection and forecasting tools, insurance, credit, etc.).

All these programs are under the supervision of the ECOWAS Commission, through the Department of Economic Affairs and Agriculture, which has two directorates particularly involved: the Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development on the one hand, and the Directorate of Environment on the other.

Supporting countries and actors, producing and disseminating references, adapting institutional arrangements



2022, ECOWAS adopts its first Regional Climate Strategy

The year 2022 was marked by the completion of the process of developing the ECOWAS Regional Climate Strategy and its action plan to 2030, adopted by the eighty-eighth ordinary session of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers held from June 30 to July 1, 2022 in Accra, Ghana.

The regional climate strategy contains objectives for adaptation—a priority issue for the region—and for contributing to climate change mitigation. These objectives are broken down by sector (agriculture, energy, transport, health, etc.) and are set for 2030, in line with the deadlines for Member States' commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement, and then provide for a review by 2050, in a process of continuous improvement, in line with the Paris Agreement. The vision of the Strategy is a long-term vision, set for the year 2050, in line with the new ECOWAS Vision 2050.

The regional climate strategy also details how regional institutions, Member States, their partners and civil society actors will cooperate for implementation. It aims at an institutional paradigm shift and deep transformations in society, which should result in every project and regional policy being compatible with the Paris Agreement.

Among the topics of regional cooperation related to “climate governance”, the preparation of annual international negotiations on climate and the consolidation of common regional positions are among the priorities, and are part of a long historical process of partnership between the ECOWAS Commission, Member States and other regional institutions (WAEMU, CILSS, BOAD, EBID).

Priority expectations for the West Africa region at COP 27

ECOWAS and its member states have agreed on priority expectations for the region. It is on the progress of these 5 priority topics that West Africa will judge the success or otherwise of the annual climate negotiations underway in Sharm el Sheikh during COP 27 :

- **Increasing the ambition of GHG emission reductions:** the international community—and more particularly the most emitting states—needs to increase its ambitions in terms of GHG reduction. The objectives of the current NDCs and long-term strategies need to be increased in order to maintain the 1.5°C objective, at the risk of generating more irreversible impacts for the most vulnerable countries;
- **Article 6 of the Paris Agreement:** to generate new financing opportunities in the region, the new “carbon market” mechanisms must be immediately operationalized, in conjunction with the implementation of the capacity building program by the Secretariat;
- **Adaptation:** Moving from planning to operationalizing adaptation to climate change, including demonstrating the progress of the Adaptation Committee;
- **Loss and damage:** significant progress must be made towards the operationalization of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage (SNLD), it is necessary that COP27 can finally agree on the steps to be taken to officially launch the SNLD and provide concrete responses to the existing loss and damage that West Africa must inevitably face despite the adaptation efforts undertaken;
- **Climate finance:** the 100 billion dollar target of the Green Climate Fund must still be met in parallel with the definition of the new 2025 target. In addition, a financial facility specifically dedicated to African countries should be established to focus on their needs and priorities in terms of adaptation, following up on the pledges made at the last COP in Glasgow, as well as to strengthen and accelerate access to financing specifically dedicated to adaptation on the one hand, loss and damage on the other, and REDD+.

Growing climate investments but far below needs

ECOWAS has taken the initiative to promote regular monitoring of climate finance flows to the ECOWAS-CILSS region. Thus, the first edition published in 2020 revealed a total estimated balance of US\$ 1,377 million between 2003 and 2019 from multilateral sources, mostly for adaptation actions. The second edition, validated in September 2022 and covering the period from March 2019 to June 2022, highlighted a volume of US\$3,888 million from multilateral and bilateral sources. Multilateral funding alone accounts for more than 86% of international funding, or US\$3,325 million. An analysis of the different financial instruments mobilized shows that loan financing is the most widely used, with a share of 47%, and more than 45% of climate finance resources were mobilized in the form of grants. Regarding the thematic areas: 36.4% of the international financial flows were used to finance cross-cutting actions, 35.8% were directed to adaptation and 27.8% to mitigation. In cumulative terms during the period 2003–2022, the overall balance is established at US\$ 5,273 million. There has been an increase in climate investments since 2019 in the region, but below expectations.

These two editions have highlighted the great disparities between the countries of the region on the one hand, and on the other hand the gap between the resources actually mobilized and the needs expressed by the countries, particularly in light of the commitments made under the Paris Agreement. Indeed, according to the revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of the countries in the ECOWAS-CILSS region, the need for climate finance to implement all mitigation and adaptation actions is estimated at USD 340 billion. In line with the implementation period of the NDCs (2020–2030), the climate finance thus mobilized from international sources between March 2019 and June 2022 represents only 4.7% of

the conditional needs expressed by some countries through their NDCs. With the current rate of mobilization of international funding to the countries of the ECOWAS-CILSS region, the needs expressed by the countries in their NDCs cannot be met, especially since national financial resources remain limited and are often mobilized to cover urgent socio-economic needs.

ECOWAS is strengthening its capacity to mobilize climate finance through (i) the submission of EBID's accreditation file to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to strengthen the region's performance in terms of resource mobilization, (ii) accreditation to the Financial Management Capacity Assessment of the ARAA to broaden the base of fiduciary agents who can facilitate the implementation of the preparatory support programs of the Green Climate Fund in the ECOWAS region, and (iii) support to CILSS in the preparation of its GCF file, (iv) training of more than 500 public and private sector actors in the fifteen Member States on the development of climate projects, which will facilitate and accelerate access to climate finance in the region (v) development of regional programs to support Member States' access (approx. \$150M) to climate finance in the implementation of the ECOWAS regional climate strategy in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

The countries of the region are now urgently appealing to technical and financial partners for additional support to be programmed and mobilized to support “low carbon and resilient development” in the region. ECOWAS reiterates the importance and urgency of accelerating climate finance over the next decade at national and regional levels.



Echoes from the field

Agroecological gardens to regenerate soil and biodiversity in the Gao region of Mali – the experience of the NGO UAVES

The acquisition of fertile land has long been a major constraint for small-scale producers. Continued land clearing, which contributes to deforestation and the reduction of biodiversity, combined with erosion and a decrease in rainfall that is poorly distributed in time and space, leads to a decrease in peasant agricultural production, thus accentuating household food and nutritional insecurity.

From 2019 to 2022, the NGO UAVES, supported by the EAP, conducted advisory activities with producers to help improve and diversify agricultural production, limit the sowing of new

fields, promote the rehabilitation of degraded land that was once abandoned, and limit rural exodus in the project area.

The agroecological techniques put forward by the project are essentially natural fertilization through local and accessible materials, the fight against erosion by stone barriers and half-moons, the fixation of dunes, the association and rotation of crops, agroforestry, and small-scale livestock. This support and advice has enabled the beneficiary farmers to stay in the same area in order to allow for the assisted regeneration of degraded areas for the grazing needs of the hut animals.

National consultations in Ghana

One of the key activities of the Agroecology Program in West Africa is the organization of national consultations on agroecological transitions.

It is within this framework and at the initiative of the Ghana Ministry of Agriculture (MoFA), in collaboration with the Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development (CIKOD) and the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG) that the first National Policy Dialogue Day on Agroecology in the Context of Climate Change was held. The dialogue brought together state and non-state actors to dialogue and discuss strategies to influence national policy decisions and investments in agroecology in Ghana.

The key recommendations and actions selected under the MoFA roadmap are:

- Increase investment in participatory action research;
- Integrate agroecology into national agricultural development policies and plans;

- Document and validate indigenous knowledge and practices related to agroecology;
- Increase awareness to maximize national and political buy-in;
- Create model agro-ecological villages to facilitate demonstrations and exchanges between actors;
- Integrate agroecology into learning programs;
- Facilitate access to markets at a higher price for agroecological products;
- Design an assessment tool to define and identify key agroecological principles and indicators;
- Ensure structural changes such as increased access to land for women;
- Ensure greater inclusion of organic fertilizers in national programs such as Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) create an assessment tool to ensure the quality of organic fertilizers.

Studies and publications

Final Report of the Study on the Inventory and Characterization of Agroecology Training Centers and the In-Depth Analy-

sis of Centers to be Supported by the Agroecology Program:

<https://app.box.com/s/g54fxv1hml97616xhptrq38r75s1s8if>

The 3AO Alliance: a central partner of ECOWAS

The Alliance for Agroecology in West Africa (3AO) is a coordination and information relay platform composed of farmers' organizations, research institutes/universities, international NGOs and social movements. It aims to promote and support an agro-ecological transition in West Africa to ensure resilient, sustainable livelihoods adapted to the new agricultural challenges in West Africa. Through a series of concrete and concerted actions, 3AO aims to strengthen

synergies between different organizations and scales of action to increase the strength of advocacy, the visibility of the movement, and the impact of agroecological initiatives. It is a privileged partner of the EAP in the organization of regional consultations.

https://www.roppa-afrique.org/IMG/pdf/3ao_brochure_planche_1_.pdf

The preparation process of the COP 27 in West Africa

Regional institutions organize an annual regional workshop to prepare for the Conferences of the Parties (COP). In the run-up to the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), West African regional institutions met with their Member States in Lomé from September 27 to 29 to prepare for the international climate negotiations (Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, November 6 to 18, 2022).

Facilitated in particular by the ECOWAS Regional Support Group for International Climate Negotiations (GRANIC), the discussions concluded with a set of common positions of the negotiators of the Member States of the region, in line with the ECOWAS regional climate strategy. The negotiators also agreed on an organization to be put in place to best represent the region's interests within the various priority thematic negotiation groups.

**“Humanity has a choice: cooperate or perish.
It is either a climate solidarity pact
or a collective suicide pact”**

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, COP 27, November 7, 2022

Agroecology reduces carbon emissions, protects soils and biodiversity, cares for women and men, provides them with food and the means to protect, educate and care for their children, future generations.



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