

Benin and the UN CC:Learn Pilot Project to Strengthen Human Resources and Skills to Address Climate Change COP 17, Durban, 04 December 2011



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Overview



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- Current efforts to address climate change in Benin
- Development of the UN CC:Learn Pilot Project:
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 2. Elements of the National Strategy to Strengthen Human Resources and Skills to Advance Green, Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development
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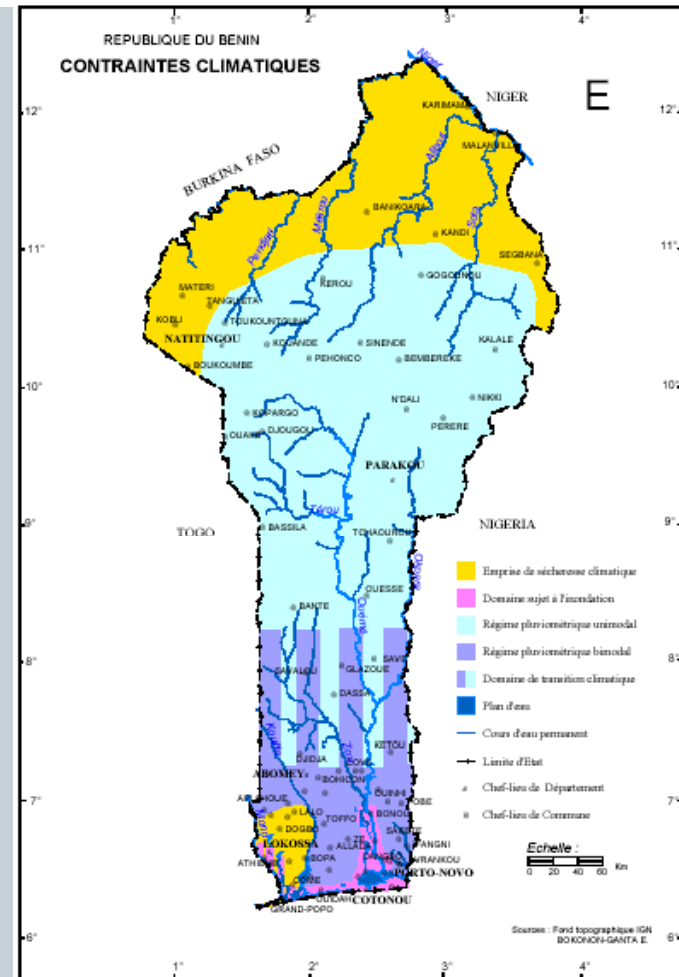
Introduction



- Benin is located in West Africa with an area of 112,622 square kilometers with a population of about 9 million in 2010
- Its neighbors are Nigeria at the east, Togo, at the west, Niger at the north-east and Burkina Faso to the northwest
- In 1991 creation of the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Development;
- 30 June 1994: Ratification of the UNFCCC
25 February 2002: Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol
- Adoption of the Environmental Action Plan in 1993
- Adoption of the National Agenda 21 in 1997

Benin's Climate

- The three climatic regions of Benin
- From $6^{\circ} 30'$ to 7° subequatorial climate with two rainy seasons; rainfall 950-1400 mm
- From $8^{\circ} 30'$ to $12^{\circ} 30'$ tropical climate and a rainy season, rainfall 950-1400 mm
- Between the two, there is a transition zone with multiple influences, precipitation 1100-1300 mm



Benin's Climate



- Excessive rain
- Delayed rains
- Spatial and temporal variability of rainfall
- Violent winds
- Dry spells

Current Efforts to Address Climate Change



- Développement of UN CC:Train which allowed the training of national technical officers on the realisation of GHG inventories, vulnerability assessments and adaptation to climate change studies
- One outcome of this project was the elaboration and adoption of Benin's national strategy to implement the UNFCCC in 2003
- Adoption of a Decree on 30 April 2003 establishing the National Committee on Climate Change which comprises the representatives of most of the different Government Ministries
- Elaboration and adoption by the Government of Benin of the Initial National Communication on Climate Change, presented in 2002 during the COP8 in New Dehli.

Current Efforts to Address Climate Change



- In January 2005, setting up of the Designated National Authority of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
- In 2007, adoption by the Government of the National Adaptation Plan Action (NAPA) which comprises 5 adaptations projects (on agriculture, energy, water resources, health and costal protection)
- Adoption of the National Capacity Self Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA-GEM) in 2008
- Adoption of the Second National Communication on Climate Change
- Development of the project on capacity building on impacts and adaptation strategies to climate change at secondary schools in Benin;
- Etc.

Development of UN CC:Learn Pilot Project



- Benin applied for the UN CC:Learn pilot project in April 2011
- In July it received the notification from UNITAR that its application was selected among 23 projects submitted;
- Setting up the management team of the project and the bodies involved in the development of this project :
 1. Steering Committee, responsible for approving activity reports and audits of the project, developing policies and clear guidelines for the effective implementation of the project
 2. Scientific and Technical Committee whose mandate is to appreciate the terms of reference for the National Strategy development and to elaborate on and contribute to improving the quality of project documents.

Development of UN CC:Learn Pilot Project



- On 28 October 2011 the Minister of Environment signed the Memorandum of Understanding between Benin and UNITAR
- From 10 to 12 November, organization of national planning activities with the active participation of UNITAR/UN CC:Learn through Ms Amrei Horstbrink
- Before the National Planning Workshop, Benin elaborated its background report on climate change which has been amended and adopted at the Planning Workshop.



Summary of the Background Report



- This report is composed of four parts:
 1. Priorities and national objectives on climate change;
 2. Repertory and analysis of relevant national development initiatives on capacities building relevant for climate change;
 3. Definition of specific actions that may improve learning in the field of climate change and strengthening institutions involved in the learning process;
 4. Key structures which can contribute to the implementation of the National Strategy to strengthen human resources, learning and skills development for climate change.

Main Priorities Identified



- Integrate climate change into national development policies and measures to protect the climatic system against human-induced changes
- Dispose reliable information on the atmospheric processes and ecosystems at the national and sub-regional levels
- Improve knowledge of processes or activities that influence the Earth's atmosphere;
- Understanding socio-economic changes, atmospheric mitigation and adaptation;
- Build the capacity of institutions responsible for education, learning and skills development and for the integration of vulnerable groups in the process of decision-making and production.

Findings of the Background Report



- Gaps in available data and the temporal and spatial coverage of certain types of data
- **The unavailability of certain tools to conduct evaluations or impact assessments related to vulnerability and mitigation**
- Very limited technical expertise in all key topics related to national communications
- The difficulty of assessing the costs of climate change impacts
- The lack of technical expertise of stakeholders both public and private to elaborate and develop CDM projects, mitigation and adaptation projects eligible for GEF;
- These gaps needed to be bridged

Preparation of the National Strategy



- The Scientific and Technical Committee, after the National Planning Workshop, adopted the survey to collect information and data on the assessment of learning needs and institutional capacity to undertake measures of learning for sustainable, low carbon and climate resilient development.
- It adopted also the structure of the National Strategy.

Structure of the National Strategy



- 1. Context**
- 2. Policy Priorities, Key Initiatives and Institutions**
- 3. Assessment of Learning and Skills Development Needs**
- 4. Assessment of Institutional Capacity to Deliver Learning Actions**
- 5. Priorities for Strengthening Learning and Skills**
- 6. Implementation of the Strategy**
- 7. Policy Recommendations**

Expected Benefits from the National Strategy



- ❑ Issues related to human resource and skills development receive greater attention
- ❑ Systematic assessment of learning needs and capabilities in key sectors
- ❑ Results-oriented approach to learning interventions
- ❑ Mobilization of national and international resources for training and skills development
- ❑ Possible alignment of donor support with the priorities listed in the National Strategy
- ❑ Establishment of a sound data base on climate change
- ❑ Creation of a strong base of human resources for better implementation of the UNFCCC

Conclusion



- Benin considers that competent human resources are the key factor of development.
- This conviction is more relevant in the context of climate change which will undermine the efforts of all countries, particular the most vulnerable, without effective capacity building and skills development.
- That is why Benin as a Least Developed Country welcomes the UN CC:Learn project and will do its best to ensure its success.



**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**