



STRAIGHT TO THE POINT

- » Mali has conditional sector-based mitigation targets by 2030, including 29 percent for agriculture, 31 percent for energy, and 21 percent for forestry. The costs to implement its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) mitigation measures are estimated at USD 34.7 billion by 2030.
- » The country has developed a national action plan to face climate change consequences. The Malian NDC details ongoing adaptation activities implemented at the national level, as well as its resource needs between 2015 and 2020. Specifically, USD 1.1 million will be required for mitigation for 2015-2020.
- » In August 2017, Mali hosted its first dedicated national consultation on the implementation of its NDC, which included broad stakeholder participation from the Ministry of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, as well as representatives from civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector. This consultation launched a coordinated process to develop a Partnership Plan.
- » A recent decree established an inter-ministerial steering committee on the implementation of its NDC. The country is also in the process of embedding climate action and NDC implementation strategies throughout sectoral investment plans, which will need to be aligned with its NDC roadmap and investment plan, currently in elaboration.
- » Mali has established the Mali Climate Fund with support from Sweden, UNDP, and more recently Norway. It was operationalized in 2014 to provide financial support for projects that help achieve national economic development and climate goals.
- » Mali has been a pioneer in decentralizing its efforts, in order to improve its performance and service provision from local governments, who are actively engaged in embedding climate policies at sub-national levels. To support climate action at decentralized levels of government, the Local Authorities National Investment Agency (ANICT) is the first Malian institution in the process of pursuing accreditation to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

BACKGROUND

ECONOMIC GROWTH RESTRICTED BY CLIMATE IMPACTS

During the early 2000s, Mali's GDP grew upwards of seven percent annually and remained relatively stable throughout several peaceful, undisputed presidential election cycles. In 2012, civil unrest, stemming from a Tuareg military coup with additional pressure from Al-Qaeda militant groups, hampered economic growth. In more recent years, economic growth has since rebounded and remained relatively stable, hovering between approximately five and six percent since 2015 due to strengthened political stability and improved security.

Economic growth has been mostly fueled by increases in labor, urbanization, improvements in agricultural processes, and public investment. Constraints can be attributed to climate fluctuations (droughts and



floods), regional and internal instability, and global commodity price fluctuations.¹ Most of the country's economy is based on agriculture (cotton is a major export) and gold, which accounts for over 30 percent of the country's GDP.²

While climate projections are uncertain within the Sahel/Saharan region, prolonged droughts and heavier rainfalls within shorter rainy seasons are significantly harming rain-fed agriculture. The northern part of the country is deep in the Saharan desert and experiences little rainfall throughout the year. The southern portion of the country is more tropical and where most of the population is concentrated³ harming rain-fed agriculture and leading to inundations.

Mali is in the process of mobilizing its efforts to tackle the negative impacts of climate change and contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) by reducing its increase of emissions; and building the institutional capacity, legal framework, databases, and cross-sector ministerial and sub-level coordination to begin putting action on the ground toward its NDC commitments. As part of this work, they are heavily engaged with international institutions and multilateral and bilateral agencies to align development partner activities and draw from external technical assistance.

COUNTRY AMBITION

A ROBUST FOUNDATION FOR INTEGRATED CLIMATE ACTION

Mali's development priorities are largely focused on decentralization and governance, which has led to increased performance and stronger service provision in more local levels of government, particularly at the municipal level. The country is largely focused on resilience, particularly through smart agricultural practices that can withstand climate change effects. Primary focus sectors include agriculture, land use, and energy. Overall, sustainable development objectives focus within these sectors to develop and implement an action plan for adaptation and mitigation; mitigate desertification; research adaptation opportunities; and mobilize local communities to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

The Ministry of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MEADD) created the country's NDC, which includes total mitigation reduction targets between 2015 and 2030 by sector: 29 percent in agriculture; 31 percent in energy; and 21 percent in land use and forestry. The overall cost of the conditional mitigation scenario is USD 34.7 billion by 2030, further broken down by sector: USD 1.2 billion for energy; USD 20.6 billion for agriculture; and USD 12.9 billion for forestry. Priority sectors for mitigation include energy, agriculture, and transport.

In adaptation, priority sectors include agriculture, with actions stretching across forestry, smart agriculture, and renewable energy. The cost for adaptation actions scheduled between 2015 and 2020 amounts to USD 1.1 billion across five programs targeting forestry, Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), and renewable energy.⁴ One of the country's highest priorities in terms of adaptation is to develop an early warning system to detect climate impacts before they occur in order to respond proactively to prevent climate pressures. Because 80 percent of Mali's workforce is in agriculture, there is high reliance on agricultural production for livelihoods and sustenance for local diets.

The MEADD oversees natural resource management, sanitation projects, and climate change initiatives. Within this Ministry, the Agency for Environment and Sustainable Development (AEDD) is leading the

² <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2015/cr15340.pdf>
³ <https://www.weadapt.org/knowledge-base/national-adaptation-planning/mali>

⁴ http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/PublishedDocuments/Mali%20First/Mali_revised%20NDC.pdf



implementation of climate change initiatives. In 2011, the AEDD, with support from GIZ, EcoSecurities, and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, developed the National Climate Change Policy (PNCC) and its corresponding National Strategy for Climate Change (SNCC). Key objectives and elements of the SNCC have been integrated into the 2012-2017 Strategic Framework for Growth and Poverty Reduction (CSCR), effectively the country's national economic development strategy. In complement to the CSCR, the Strategic Framework for a Resilient and Green Mali (2011) provides the linkage between the SNCC and low-carbon and resilient economic growth and poverty reduction targets. The implementation of the SNCC is outlined within the National Action Plan on Climate Change (PANC).⁵

In addition to Mali's existing institutional and policy framework, there is also momentum on the budgeting and financing side to integrate climate change within investment plans and mobilize resources to support climate activities. The country is in the process of embedding climate and NDC implementation actions through sectoral investment plans via coordinated efforts between other ministries and with support from the NDC Partnership.

STATE OF PLAY

MATCHING RESOURCES AND SUPPORT WITH NDC GOALS

Mali is on the front end of NDC implementation. The country has certain institutional and legal frameworks in place and is moving toward developing budget and investment frameworks to ready projects and mobilize resources. The NDC Partnership is assisting in analyzing the dissemination of climate change policy throughout sectoral action plans with an NDC implementation roadmap and investment plan. During this process, it is also considering its monitoring and evaluation needs to ensure it can demonstrate progress toward NDC commitments.

In 2011, Mali established the National Committee on Climate Change (CNCC), which is comprised of ministry representatives, private sector partners, civil society organizations, and community representatives. It was validated by the Mali Council of Ministers (in 2015 before the National Assembly). The CNCC is the consultative body that leads and mobilizes stakeholders relevant to climate change planning and policy. This committee is in the process of finding its leadership structure and institutional capacity to lead and deliver on climate actions.

While most of the country's climate efforts are driven by the AEDD, with coordination responsibility under the CNCC, other ministries are being drawn into the fold, including the Ministry of Economy and Finance. During the National Consultation on the Implementation of Mali's NDC, facilitated by the NDC Partnership in August 2017, representatives from various ministries participated in this dialogue. With the recent establishment of an inter-ministerial coordinating committee for NDC implementation (under a decree issued on 1 August 2017), the government needs to further clarify the roles, responsibilities, governance arrangements, and complementarity among the various existing institutions.

To finance the SNCC's priorities between 2012 and 2017, the Government of Mali set up the Mali Climate Fund, administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office of the UNDP. The fund, established in 2012, was operationalized in 2014 through an initial USD 10 million investment from Sweden and Norway.⁶ The AEDD

⁵ <http://www.gcca.eu/national-programmes/africa/global-climate-change-alliance-in-mali>
⁶ <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/3MLO>



hosts the secretariat of the Mali Climate Fund. The fund's objectives are to implement the SNCC, with a primary focus on resilience and a secondary focus on mitigation, by providing a financial mechanism that will centralize international and national funds to support adaptation and clean development projects; mobilize additional outside resources; catalyze private financing through reducing investment risks; pilot partnerships and policies that scale up the use of clean technologies; and build capacity for national actors. The fund is one of the first of its kind on the continent, but its governance needs to be reviewed and improved. The Mali Climate Fund launched its first call for proposals in March 2014, which approved three projects that cover sustainable agriculture, land restoration, and solar energy.

The PNCC includes mandates to decentralize climate change adaptation responsibilities to sub-national actors; as a result, much of the country's current climate work is being completed at the local level, as there have been successful efforts to decentralize funds, authorities, and responsibilities to regions, counties, and communes. Acting at the intersection of decentralization and climate change action, the Malian Local Authorities National Investment Agency (ANICT) is now receiving technical assistance from the BRACED (Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters) initiative through the Near East Foundation (NEF) to strengthen local community resilience.⁷

To mobilize resources for climate action, Mali has nominated two other institutions for accreditation to the GCF. The Mali Folk Center is a non-governmental organization (NGO) working in environmental protection and renewable energy. It is also the secretary for the Reso Climat, a network of 130 NGOs working on climate change and sustainable development. Once accredited, the Mali Folk Center will facilitate Malian NGO access to GCF resources. The second entity is the Malian Development Bank (BDM-SA), nationally ranked first in terms of capital. The accreditation of the BDM-SA will enhance the Malian private sector's ability to access finance for climate change. With these three separate GCF accredited entities (ANICT, the Mali Folk Center, and the BDM-SA) and the operationalized Mali Climate Fund, the country will be able to apply multiple tools for NDC implementation from different financial instruments and stakeholders.

In complement to its mitigation efforts, Mali has over 40 Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects that have the potential to reduce emissions by 15 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year and a total elimination of hydro-chloro fluorocarbons (HCFCs) by 2030, a reduction of roughly 17,300 tons of carbon dioxide-equivalents. Mali is also receiving support from the UNDP in the preparation of its third national communication and coordinating the Environment and Climate Task Force of the "Partenaires Techniques et Financiers" (Coordinating entity for microfinance donors in Mali). UNEP is supporting Mali's preparation of their Biennial Update Report (BUR).

NDC PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR LONG-TERM IMPACT

Mali joined the NDC Partnership shortly after the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2016 (COP22) and is actively engaging with the NDC Partnership to begin NDC planning and implementation. From 14-16 August 2017, AEDD and MEADD, with support from the NDC Partnership Support Unit and GIZ, hosted the National Consultation on the Implementation of Mali's NDC, with the primary objectives of:

⁷ <http://www.near-east.org/braced-decentralizing-climate-funds-def-in-mali-and-senegal/?s=c>



- » Reflecting on the strategies for the implementation of Mali's NDC;
- » Obtaining elements for the elaboration of the roadmap draft and investment plan;
- » Facilitating discussion on objectives, action plans, and mitigation and adaptation strategies in key sectors;
- » Developing a better understanding of institutional, technical, and financial achievements, constraints, challenges, and opportunities for the implementation of sectoral action plans and strategies; and
- » Facilitating the alignment of various investment plans.

Within this national consultation, the NDC Partnership facilitated south-south dialogues by sharing the experience of other countries in developing their NDC implementation plans and roadmaps. The NDC Partnership, the GIZ, the Moroccan Center for Climate Change Competence (4C Maroc), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Ghana took part in a conversation to share their experience in developing NDC roadmaps and investment plans. The Ministry of Economy and Finance was fully engaged in the consultation and intends to align its planning and budgeting activities with the implementation requirements of the NDC.

Since joining the NDC Partnership, Mali has nominated representatives in the Ministry of Finance and the Economy as focal points to the Partnership, demonstrating strong political will to connect climate change with national budgeting and planning decisions. Currently, Mali is engaged with members of the NDC Partnership and development partners on several climate initiatives that contribute to NDC goals and long-term national climate objectives.

The World Bank, with funding from the NDC Facility for the Adaptation of African Agriculture to Climate Change (AAA) Initiative, and with recent endorsement from the Malian Ministry of Agriculture, will also be supporting Mali in the operationalization of the agriculture pillar of its NDC, while building capacity for NDC implementation through south-south dialogues within a network of expertise across the continent.

As part of mobilizing resources for climate change action, the AEDD, as the Malian Nationally Designated Authority (NDA) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), supported the GCF accreditation process of ANICT, with additional assistance provided by NEF and the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). With accreditation, a list of ready projects, and a GCF investment plan, the country will be even better prepared to start proposing projects for funding. In fact, they are already starting to access the fund. In partnership with the World Bank, Mali was awarded USD 22.8 million from the GCF (with USD 2.5 million from the World Bank and USD 2 million committed by the Government of Mali in co-financing) for the "Africa Hydromet Program," which will help reduce food insecurity, protect livelihoods, and inform infrastructure development. This project will develop an in-country early warning system to provide information and alerts on hazardous weather and climate impacts to the agricultural sector.⁸

In addition, GIZ has a large presence in the country, with strategic interventions focused on smart agriculture; good governance and decentralization; and water supply and treatment. GIZ's interventions cover climate change and reconciliation. While primarily targeting the agricultural sector, GIZ has been involved in environmental work for more than ten years, having supported the government in the process of developing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which led to approval of the National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) in 2007, and later for establishing the PNCC. As part of its current Partnership activities, GIZ is providing two technical experts to support the Malian government in developing an NDC implementation roadmap and investment plan.

⁸ <http://www.greenclimate.fund/-/africa-hydromet-program-strengthening-climate-resilience-in-sub-saharan-africa-mali-country-project>



Mali is also supported by the African Climate Change Fund's Readiness Program, facilitated by the African Development Bank, to finalize its National Environment Finance Strategy; prepare a resilience program (with a green economy program to be added to its project pipeline); and build capacity at the AEDD's finance department with the overall objective to accelerate the transition to a green and more resilient economy.

Toward its adaptation ambitions, Mali is receiving funding from the International Climate Initiative (IKI), implemented by the German government's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), for two programs: the "Programme for the Support of the National Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change in Mali" and the "Innovative Development Planning for the Adaptation to Climate Change in Mali," with implementation assistance from UNDP and GIZ. These projects aim to strengthen Mali's National Adaptation Strategy, with a primary objective of ensuring innovative, integrated approaches to climate change adaptation in regards to ecosystems, social systems, and supply chains in vulnerable regions of Mali.⁹

As Mali coordinates with development partners and members of the NDC Partnership to implement these projects, the country is also in the process of identifying future needs for NDC implementation. As the Ministry of Finance and Economy works to develop NDC-compatible sectoral investment plans, it will identify priority areas of engagement and align development partner assistance and support for joint and complementary progression toward future climate goals. As part of this work, Mali will collaborate with the NDC Partnership to identify gaps and areas of support for the near term and over time.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP

SECURING HIGH-LEVEL SUPPORT AND PARTNER ASSISTANCE

The NDC Partnership is facilitating synergies and streamlined approaches through technical assistance to produce a roadmap for NDC implementation, coupled with an investment plan to coordinate funding for NDC related projects. Upcoming NDC Partnership priorities include:

- » Facilitating cross-governmental endorsement and buy-in at a high level;
- » Facilitating institutional strengthening, including cross-ministerial, sub-national coordination, while supporting existing platforms such as steering committees, the Climate Change Committee (CNCC), civil society organizations, research institutes, and local academia;
- » Coordinating development partner engagement, including aligning separate projects and matching support and funds toward shared goals and key interventions;
- » Mainstreaming climate and NDC implementation into national and sub-national planning and budgeting decisions;
- » Strengthening budgeting and financing frameworks to support NDC implementation and supporting the accreditation process of Malian institutions to the GCF;
- » Strengthening Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems to track progress toward future climate goals, and supporting environmental and GHG data gathering and dissemination;

⁹ <http://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/western-africa/mali>



- » Strengthening the legislative framework to remove barriers and facilitate implementation and accelerate the transition to a decarbonized and climate-resilient economy;
- » Strengthening communication and access to information on NDC planning and implementation, including raising awareness on the national steering committee established by the 1 August 2017 decree; and
- » Strengthening capacity building and mobilization among key international and national stakeholders.

One of the first steps the NDC Partnership Support Unit undertook to coordinate climate change activities within governmental processes was to get support and engagement of high-level officials, particularly from the Climate Advisor to the President and the Minister of Economy and Finance. These high-profile players are necessary for getting climate actions mainstreamed into the national budget process and developing mandates for sectors and sub-national levels to integrate climate actions into their respective plans and budgets. Despite renewed political will, there is a need to build capacity to ensure that climate change policies are mainstreamed across all levels of government (including at territorial and sectoral levels), as well as across wider stakeholders (academia, private sector, and civil society).

While Mali has done a lot of work to establish an institutional and legal framework that guides climate change policy, planning, and budgeting, the degree to which this framework is operationalized depends on the extent to which the players responsible for championing climate action understand their roles and are actively coordinating their work. Relevant ministries, departments, and agencies need to better understand how climate change affects their missions and how they can plan appropriate responses. Roles and responsibilities need further clarification, as the current situation leads to limited application of the country's climate policies. Additionally, there is a need to ensure that NDC implementation activities are disseminated to sub-national levels, as local governments should also see their role in implementing the country's climate policies, as well as how to integrate their needs and concerns into national level decision making processes. This is a great opportunity for the NDC Partnership to assist with coordinating governmental actors across ministries and at sub-national levels to get their engagement, attention, and time toward implementing existing national climate policies, NDC measures, SDGs, the NAP, and related plans and policies. Within this process, the NDC Partnership could investigate the potential to strengthen the institutional capacity of the CNCC to deliver on its mandate, given there is the political will and interest to do so.

The NDC Partnership will also strengthen its engagement and facilitation between Malian officials and implementing and development partners through identifying roles and responsibilities of each actor for achieving the NDC, captured within the Partnership Plan that is currently being developed. Toward coordinating a well-organized and efficiently functioning national climate program, the NDC Partnership can coordinate efforts with the development partner community to ensure that development partner-funded projects and programs are well aligned and not redundant. It is not uncommon for development partner efforts to overlap or for work to duplicate past efforts if open lines of communication are not established early in project planning stages. The NDC Partnership will be able to ensure that multilateral and bilateral partners are working in step, and not over each other, enabling the Malian Government to stay ahead of what development partners can fund or are interested in supporting.

To access external resources for NDC implementation, the NDC Partnership can also support building a pipeline of projects (either as Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) or well-prepared bankable projects) that can easily and quickly be proposed to climate financing mechanisms or private investors. Within this process, Mali can also start to compile costed implementation strategies per sector, depending on the number and types of projects that are ready for planning and funding. At the national level, the NDC



Partnership can support efforts to build the capacity and impact of the Mali Climate Fund. To ensure that the fund is capitalized with sufficient resources to support future projects, the NDC Partnership can help organize the fund to receive, consolidate, and manage international resources to support internal projects. The NDC Partnership and its members have substantial experience in identifying funding sources, and building capacity to manage funds toward climate-related projects.

There is an opportunity to strengthen access to data on climate impacts, which would enable agricultural, land use, and energy experts to make informed decisions that respond to climate change projections and impacts. Mali already has a national database that can acquire, process, and archive this type of information. The National Environmental Information Management System (SNGIE) can provide the structure to mainstream MRV system across sectors. The management system secretariat is responsible for managing environmental and climate data and produces a biennial report on the state of the environment. To strengthen this system, the NDC Partnership can facilitate leveraging existing initiatives, such as the “Capacity Building Initiative on Transparency (CBIT),” channeled through the GEF, to effectively contribute to a centralized MRV system. This system can also be enhanced to ensure Mali has a system in place that effectively tracks progress toward NDC emission targets.

Finally, the NDC Partnership can support the development of a communication system for disseminating climate-related information across levels of government and to communities. While decentralization efforts have been successful across the country, it is important to make sure these actors have the information needed to make informed decisions that respond to future climate pressures. This line of communication should also be adapted for use by community stakeholders, to raise public awareness about climate change impacts and their own role in responding proactively.

Within each of these potential areas of support, the NDC Partnership will consult with and work to support the Malian Government with its own ambitions and objectives. It has already expressed its expectations of its membership with the NDC Partnership, which enables the Government to lead its work and articulate high priority areas of support for future projects where it would like to seek input and assistance from the NDC Partnership. These interventions will contribute to the enhancement of Mali’s NDC and its revision or update by 2020.

SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGE: TEAMING WITH NEIGHBORS AND SHARING INFORMATION

Mali has substantial opportunities to share experiences and information, as well as learn from efforts in other countries or those led by members of the NDC Partnership. South-south learning has already been facilitated by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and UNDP, who shared lessons-learned and experiences from Colombia, Ecuador, Trinidad and Tobago (electronically and through webinar), as well as Morocco and Ghana during their NDC implementation national consultations in Mali. With access to and participation in regional forums focused on climate planning and NDC implementation, through facilitation with the NDC Partnership, Mali has a platform within which to highlight its own success as well as a place to ask questions about efforts being led elsewhere.

For example, the Mali Climate Fund can serve as a strong example of consolidating funding, both domestic and international, for quick disbursement to climate-change related projects. This fund is not the only one in operation in Africa, and there is a large opportunity to facilitate south-south dialogues for countries with similar funds to share ideas and experiences about the administration of their respective climate funding programs. To strengthen the operations and management of the Mali Climate Fund, Mali could learn from Rwanda’s experience in managing its Green Fund¹⁰, which is highly regarded for efficient use of resources and strong institutional capacity.

NDC Country Outlook

MALI

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The NDC Partnership is guided by its partners and assisted by a Support Unit hosted by the World Resources Institute (WRI). The Partnership is co-chaired by the Governments of Germany and Morocco.

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