



# Carbon News in West Africa

A Quarterly Newsletter by the West African Alliance  
on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance

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## **I. “Better negotiation prospects for West Africa at SBs52 and CoP 26 as Heads of Delegation and Alliance focal points received enhanced capacity building from the Alliance.**

Amidst the challenges associated with virtual participation, the West African Alliance on Carbon Market and Climate Finance (WAA) provided technical support in order to facilitate the participation of the Alliance focal points to the informal and formal bilateral talks at the SBSTA 52. Through informed briefings and knowledge support, the heads of thematic groups of the AGN group now have a well-informed position and are better prepared for the upcoming CoP 26. This is a departure from previous CoPs (24 and 25) where West African delegates lacked the clarity and understanding of the principles of Article 6.

This year’s SBs 52 discussions were largely centered around sub-items 6.2, 6.4 and 6.8 of the Article 6. This was due to the controversial nature of some elements of Article 6, like the mandatory/voluntary and provision of finance for adaptation (share of proceeds), CDM transitioning as well as the operationalization of OMGE. However, with the knowledge provided by the Alliance, the heads of thematic groups of the AGN were able to share understanding and arrive at a common position on these issues.



# News

Realizing the value of preparatory capacity workshops, which was evident in the just concluded SBs 52; the Alliance hopes to continue to provide series of preparatory technical workshops to heads of delegation ahead of future UNFCCC CoP preparatory sessions. These preparatory technical workshops had positive impacts on the quality of the arguments and contributions it facilitated consensus among thematic heads on knotty issues. Besides being familiarized with the position of the AGN and the rationale behind each Article 6 sub-issue, the heads of delegation were also able to develop and elaborate a briefing paper intended to guide further pre-COP discussions.

The certainty that West Africa's position on Article 6 will be

clearly articulated at this year's CoP 26 is high and can be positively attributed to the broad knowledge support provided by the Alliance. Some of these support measures included virtual briefings jointly organized by the East and West African Alliances and the setting up of other instant communication channels like WhatsApp (SB 52 WhatsApp group). The flow of information has increased, and members now have better experiences with exchanging views and sharing information. The Alliance is also promoting the use of specialized platforms where only the Alliance LDCs members can participate in order to enhance strategic talks bothering on the divergent positions between the AGN and LDCs groups.



## II. Sixteen Alliance Member Countries to benefit from Article 6 readiness Support.

The Alliance has begun the elaboration of its readiness support framework for its member countries. Although more tailored and structured supports are intended for countries who fit the following categories; early movers, countries with advanced pilot actions and countries with CDM implementation experience; other Alliance member countries will have the opportunity of assessing generic capacity support.

Participation into market-based and non-marked cooperative approaches of Article 6 requires a domestic framework that facilitates the approval and registration of mitigation activities. It also requires an authorisation process for international transfers. This process needs expanded institutional capacities to enable Alliance member countries seize and leverage opportunities in the international carbon market. While a few member countries have some measure of capacity, others lack the knowledge base for carbon markets approaches. This can be explained by the limited implementation experiences with carbon mechanisms. The capacity gap created by Africa's late entry into carbon markets diminished the need and opportunity, in some countries for the developing relevant frameworks that could support

long-term carbon market engagement.

In April, 2021, the Alliance concluded a scoping study aimed assessing the capacity and institutional needs of member countries in relation to Article 6 implementation readiness. In close collaboration with technical partners (Climate Focus, Perspectives and AEE), the Alliance secretariat, hosted by ENDA undertook series of in-depth dialogues and questionnaire administration with country focal points to elicit responses on readiness capacity needs and potential next steps. Information gathered from the thirteen (13) Alliance member countries reveals that broader and enhanced support are needed in supporting countries jump-start the implementation of Article 6.2. The result of the study showed differences in the states of Article 6 preparedness.



# Focus

Already member countries are working to advance the integration of Article 6 into NDC processes with 14 of the 16 West African Alliance countries already considering the integration of Article 6 into their national NDC. Regarding the development of national Article 6 policy, no member country has developed an Article 6 strategy as various groundwork including public consultations are ongoing. For example, so far 46% consultations with public sector stakeholders have been held and 38,5% private sector stakeholders identified.

Some Alliance countries now have dedicated technical committees for the implementation of Article 6. Others, such as those currently conceptualizing or already far engaged in voluntary carbon markets (VCMs) pilot initiatives have established technical and legal frameworks. Ghana has already established its NDC monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system, while seven (7) other countries are currently in the process of developing one. Advanced Article.6 pilot activities in the sub-region includes the sustainable waste management pro-

gramme, the standardized crediting framework, and the domestic biogas digesters in Senegal as well as the national clean energy access programme in Ghana and the pilot programme on adaptation benefit mechanism in Côte d'Ivoire.

Based on the study outcomes, the Alliance is now developing a tailored support framework and a clear road map for incorporating Article 6.2 into NDC implementation. In aligning with these priorities, the Alliance will conduct a series of workshops to exchange knowledge and provide technical support needed on topics relevant to Article 6 implementation. The establishment of feedback channels to facilitate knowledge exchange are also planned. Other envisaged study implementation includes elaborating donor coordination. This is to facilitate identification of ITMO buying entities and matching African carbon markets with interested ITM buyers.





# Highlights



## Eastern Africa Alliance On Carbon Markets And Climate Finance

### III. Fostering carbon markets partnership

#### 3.1. Promoting Win-Win Partnerships with East African Alliance

Since its launch at the close of 2019, the Eastern African Alliance is working very closely with West African Alliance to develop a range of win-win regional partnerships. Driven by common capacity challenges and interests in long-term Article 6 engagement, both Alliances are working together to strengthen cross exchange of ideas and capacity opportunities.

A permanent communication channel has been set up by the two Alliances for improving coordination and the facilitation of planned regional approaches. One of such collaborative efforts is the setting up of virtual platforms for online trainings and exchanges. With funding from the World Bank, the East and West Africa Alliance organized an online carbon pricing training. The success of the online carbon training inspired a regional approach by both Alliances for further initiatives that could engender cross-regional benefits. Thus, the Alliances have organized several activities together in promoting opportunities for member countries.

The collaboration between the two Alliances has contributed to the initiation of activities including preparatory workshop series for Article 6 negotiations as well as coordination meetings set up to support formal and informal interactions during the SBs 52. In addition to inspiring peer-to-peer learning, the strategic partnership between the West and East African Alliance has improved understanding and consensus on key issues of regional interest particularly among negotiating groups such as AGN, LDC, etc.



# Highlights

## 3.2. African Development Bank signs a collaborative partnership with West Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Financeest Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and

The Alliance has secured a collaborative partnership with the African Development Bank. In a letter of intent of collaboration and information-sharing, signed by the Bank on June 9th, 2021, the West African Alliance is now working in close synergy with the African Development Bank to explore innovative and long term financing options for climate actions in the region. This formalized collaboration pact resulted from series of dialogues aimed at improving thematic alignments and synergies on carbon markets between the Alliance and the AfDB. Following efforts by the Alliance in identifying and assessing the technical capacity needs of member countries, needed in setting up the Article 6 architecture: the Bank undertook the initiative in forging partnership with the Alliance. The Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth Complex of the Bank has now opened discussions with the Alliance on the possibility of developing a joint programme of activities including knowledge-sharing, advisory and technical capacity strengthening. The new African Development Bank and WAA partnership will help harmonize intervention approaches and in turn support the collective identification and definition of appropriate technical support needed to further improve the design of pilot carbon projects in West Africa. Outcomes of the scoping study will provide a good starting point for finding entry points for long-term collaboration. Moving forward will require establishing next steps in terms of the specific collaborative themes and co-organizing roundtables is being planned and will be implemented in the near future.



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



## **IV. Alliance Nigeria Focal Point, Mrs Asmau Djibril leverages new position as alternate member of the CDM Board and facilitates Nigerian process of Doha amendment.**

Ms. Asmau Jibril has recently been appointed as an alternate member of the CDM Executive Board (Clean Development Mechanism). In addition to her role as the head of Mitigation Division of Department of Climate Change in Nigeria, Ms. Jibril is also the Alliance focal point and working group lead person on technology transfer of the West African Alliance. She is also the Nigeria focal point for the UNEP - Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT). Indeed, the continuous and active involvement of Alliance focal points into the implementation of Alliance's activities (climate negotiation sessions, webinars, etc.) had remarkably enhanced member's visibility and engagement at national and international level.

Regarding the Doha amendment, Ms. Asmau Jibril facilitated an accelerated legislative endorsement process for the Doha Amendment signature. By the closing of business day on October 2nd 2020, Nigerian Government was able to submit the 144th ratification letter needed for the UNSG to allow Doha amendment to enter into force. This great accomplishment and commitment by the Nigerian government was acknowledged by Patricia Espinosa C. the Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, in the official twitter account.





# Keep up on

## V. Useful references and upcoming events

### 5.1. Upcoming events:

- a. African Climate Week 2021 (26-29 September 2021) (<https://bit.ly/3mkzqUf>)
- b. WAA technical workshop: baseline and additionalities (TBC)
- c. WAA's in-person meetings: Technical regional workshop, strategic consultation meeting and member meeting on Article 6 issues (14 -16th September 2021- Abuja)

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West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance (WAA)

**Strategic member meeting and technical regional  
workshop on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement**

**14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Sandralia Hotel, Abuja**

### 5.2. Relevant links related on carbon markets

BMU Carbon Markets : <https://www.carbon-mechanisms.de/>

International Climate Initiative (IKI) (<https://bit.ly/2WeNjIj>)



# West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance (WAA)



**“We have to make carbon markets accessible for West African countries to make sure least developed countries do not miss the train under the Paris Agreement as they did with the CDM”**



**Ousmane Fall Sarr**  
*Coordinator*

[www.westafricacclimatealliance.org](http://www.westafricacclimatealliance.org)



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