

10 YEARS OF THE
WEST AFRICAN ALLIANCE

Building carbon markets and climate finance in West Africa

A decade of the West African Alliance and Regional Partners (2016-2026)

High-level remarks



Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo
Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia & Ambassador of the WAA

It is with profound humanity and a deep sense of shared accomplishment that I extend my warmest congratulations to the West African Alliance on Carbon Market and Climate Finance (WAA) as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary. Over the past decade, the Alliance has evolved from a visionary concept into a formidable force for climate resilience, capacity building, and sustainable finance across our sub-region. West Africa is a region of immense ecological wealth. From the carbon-dense rainforests and vital wetlands of Liberia to the expansive savannas and fragile coastal ecosystems across our borders, our environment is the bedrock of our economic survival. Yet, these precious ecosystems remain severely threatened by climate change. Protecting this natural heritage is not merely an environmental imperative; it is a priority for our people.

On behalf of the Government and people of Liberia, I express our deepest gratitude to the Alliance and its partners. Over ten years, our strategic guidance has empowered West African nations to navigate complex global climate finance landscapes, ensuring the specific realities of the Global South remain at the forefront of the international climate agenda.

As we look ahead, Article 6 of the Paris Agreement serves as a vital mechanism for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Carbon markets are more than financial tools; they are conduits for sustainable development, green technology transfer, and localized economic growth. Unlocking their full potential requires a united front. Our collective voice prevents fragmentation, safeguards environmental integrity, and amplifies our bargaining power in global negotiations.

Domestically, Liberia is actively operationalizing its National Carbon Market Policy. We are laying robust regulatory and institutional foundations to guarantee that carbon trading is transparent, equitable, and directly benefits the local communities who serve as the true guardians of our natural capital. As we celebrate this 10th milestone, let us move beyond readiness into execution; building high-integrity, climate-resilient economies across West Africa. Thank you for a decade of leadership, partnership, and unwavering dedication.



High-level remarks



M. Abou Bamba
Ministre de l'Environnement et de la Transition Ecologique de la Côte d'Ivoire

La Côte d'Ivoire est fière d'être membre fondateur de l'Alliance Ouest-Africaine sur les marchés carbone et la finance climat, dont nous célébrons aujourd'hui les dix années d'engagement. Depuis 2016, l'Alliance accompagne notre pays dans la structuration de son marché carbone et dans la mise en œuvre progressive de l'Article 6 de l'Accord de Paris, en renforçant nos capacités techniques et en facilitant le dialogue avec les acteurs internationaux.

La co-organisation à Abidjan, en 2023, de la première édition du West African Carbon Market Hub demeure un jalon majeur, ayant catalysé des partenariats innovants au service de solutions carbone crédibles.
À l'heure où la région accélère son intégration climatique, nous saluons l'Alliance pour son rôle moteur et réaffirmons notre volonté de poursuivre cette coopération stratégique, pour le bien-être de nos populations.



High-level remarks



M. Fassou Thea
Ministre de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable de la Guinée

Monsieur le Coordonnateur, Mesdames et Messieurs les membres de l'Alliance, chers partenaires,
Il y a dix ans, l'Alliance ouest-africaine sur les marchés carbone et le financement climatique s'est donné une ambition que la Guinée partage pleinement : permettre à nos pays de tirer pleinement parti des opportunités offertes par les marchés du carbone. Je tiens à saluer, au nom du Gouvernement guinéen, le chemin parcouru et la qualité de cet accompagnement.

Pour la Guinée, cette coopération prend aujourd'hui une dimension concrète. L'appui de l'Alliance à l'élaboration de la feuille de route pour l'opérationnalisation de notre Cellule nationale sur le marché carbone nous donne les moyens de structurer notre participation aux marchés, au titre de l'article 6 de l'Accord de Paris. [Cette feuille de route a été examinée lors de l'atelier national de validation tenu à Conakry le 28 septembre dernier.]

Cette démarche s'inscrit pleinement dans la vision Simandou 2040. Notre ambition est de faire des marchés carbone un véritable levier de financement de notre développement durable : préserver nos forêts et notre biodiversité, valoriser nos ressources naturelles, soutenir les communautés locales et attirer des investissements de qualité, dans un cadre crédible, transparent et d'intégrité élevée. Elle accompagne aussi la mise en œuvre de notre Contribution déterminée au niveau national.

Nous entendons donc poursuivre et approfondir cette collaboration, en nous appuyant sur les expériences des autres pays de la région pour accélérer la mise en œuvre de nos ambitions. La Guinée réaffirme ainsi son engagement sur les marchés internationaux du carbone.
Je vous remercie.



High-level remarks



Serge Ekué
BOAD President

Ten years ago, BOAD co-founded the West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance, driven by a shared conviction: West Africa should not watch carbon markets from the sidelines, but become a credible player in them. Over a decade, the Alliance has strengthened our countries' capacities, aligned their approaches and given the region a strong voice in the Article 6 negotiations.

The coming decade must be one of scale. Through the BOAD Carbon Market Place, we intend to turn this political capital into high-integrity transactions and carbon revenues that finance bankable projects, for a resilient, low-carbon development of our region.



High-level remarks



Dr. Heike Henn
State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)

I congratulate the West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance on its 10th anniversary. When I met the Alliance at the SBs in Bonn this year [2026] I was impressed how involved in promoting high integrity in carbon markets and carbon pricing across Africa and how inspiring its coordinator, secretariat and members are.

Besides promoting peer-to-peer capacity building, the Alliance is a great example of a bottom-up initiative rooted in West African countries and organisations. As a founding supporter of the Alliance it has been a pleasure to see the Alliance become a role model within and beyond the region, as more and more countries are interested in building similar regional alliances.



West African Alliance at a glance

The West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance brings together 16 committed countries of the region as members. It was founded by West African focal points and carbon market experts and is firmly rooted in West African institutions.

Core mandate

Support Article 6 readiness, UNFCCC negotiation capacity, carbon market implementation, peer learning, and country-level operationalisation.

Operating model

Regional coordination combined with tailored national support based on needs from countries, supported by technical partners and local experts.

The Secretariat

ARC Holding hosts the Secretariat and Coordinator, based in Dakar

BOAD

Financial trustee and regional finance anchor

Implementation group

Climate Focus, Perspectives Climate Group, Afrique Énergie Environnement, Local Experts

Ten-year booklet of the West African Alliance

This booklet looks back on ten years of the Alliance and forward to what comes next.

I. **A decade of regional action:** Follows the phases the Alliance went through from building its foundations in 2016

II. **Regional leadership, global impact:** Highlights the regional leadership they now enable

III. **Shaping the next decade:** Defines the priorities for the decade ahead.



I. A DECADE OF REGIONAL ACTION

II. REGIONAL LEADERSHIP, GLOBAL IMPACT

III. SHAPING THE NEXT DECADE

Part I

A DECADE OF REGIONAL ACTION



Our journey through the years

A regional initiative, founded by West African focal points and carbon market experts, firmly rooted in West African institutions.

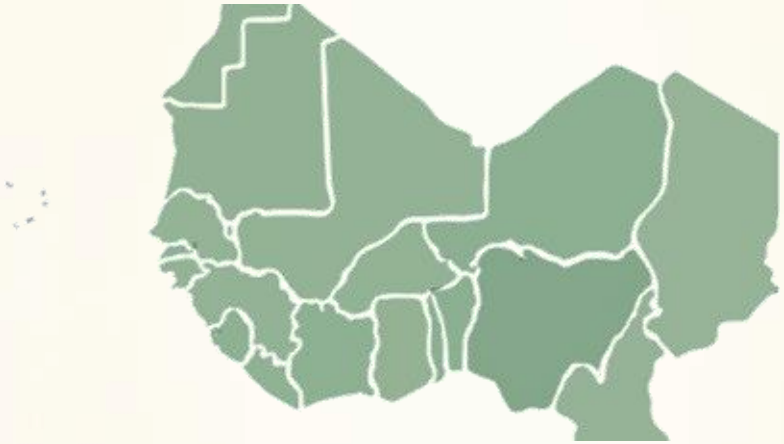
2016

Building a regional vision

The **West African Alliance** emerges at COP22 in Marrakesh







2017-2019

Phase I: Building the Alliance

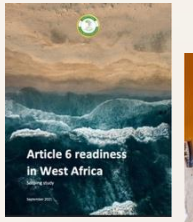
The Alliance is established through the creation of governance structures, **focal point networks** and **regional cooperation mechanisms.**

Early readiness support to strengthen technical capacities at the sub-regional and national levels is provided.

2020-2024

Phase II: Carbon Market Readiness

The Alliance **prepares members for Article 6 carbon markets.** Regional collaboration, peer exchange, capacity building and technical support pave the way to market engagement. Our **website** and **Knowledge Hub** offer practical guidance, while the **West Africa Carbon Market Hub draws stakeholders to the region**.







2024-2028

Phase III: Article 6 Implementation

Marking the shift from **readiness to implementation**, the Alliance scales its in-country support through the development of **tools, capacity building and dedicated Alliance local experts**. Member countries receive implementation support and benefit from **stronger engagement with the private sector**, endorsing the Declaration of Pointe Sarène, a key outcome of the Carbon Market Hub in Senegal.



Part II

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP, GLOBAL IMPACT



A regional institution

The Alliance has built the regional leadership, strong institutions and trusted networks needed for West Africa to engage more effectively in carbon markets and climate finance.

Regional leadership

A trusted platform for coordination and political engagement

- Representing **West African interests in international** Article 6 negotiations
- Coordinating **member-country engagement** in UNFCCC and international climate negotiations
- **Convening governments** and **strategic partners** around carbon markets and climate finance



Institutional strength

A local network for cooperation

- A **pioneering model** that has informed the establishment of sister African Alliances
- A **broad network of regional** and international **strategic partners**
- Functional organisational and financial structures **rooted in sub-regional institutions**

West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance | Eastern Africa Alliance On Carbon Markets And Climate Finance | Southern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets & Climate Finance



Far reaching expertise

A growing ecosystem of local knowledge and technical capacity

- **Technical expertise** and **knowledge-sharing infrastructure** on Article 6 and carbon markets
- **Regional** and **national networks** of focal points and local experts
- **Peer-to-peer learning** across member countries



westafricanalliance.org

Regional leadership to concrete action

Enabling countries and stakeholders to move from regional dialogue to implementation

Supporting implementation
Targeted technical assistance and in-country capacity building for member countries.

Building local capacity
Developing regional and national expertise through local experts, technical partners and knowledge-sharing platforms.

16
Member countries receiving targeted technical support

12+
Capacity-building workshops and technical assistance

4+
Peer-to-peer exchanges

5+
Carbon Market Frameworks supported

10+
In-country support activities

Connecting decision-makers
Regular peer-to-peer exchanges between Article 6 focal points and government representatives.

Creating connections
Facilitating partnerships between governments, technical institutions, investors and international stakeholders.

13+
Regional and international events

3
Ministerial meetings

2+
Carbon Market Hubs

1
Political Declaration

17+
Activities with strategic partners

Stocktake of impact in West Africa beyond WAA support: Turning readiness into implementation

9+ Final or draft Carbon Market Frameworks

8+ National Carbon Market Bureaus (Units)

10 Bilateral Agreements signed

Connecting global markets to West Africa

The Alliance connects country-level action with regional institutions and global carbon-market processes - turning regional coordination and priorities into real participation that shape global carbon markets and climate finance.



ANCHORED IN THE REGION

Regional institutions (collaboration)
- BOAD
- ECOWAS
- UNFCCC RCC West & Central Africa

African climate diplomacy (coordination)
- African Group of Negotiators (AGN)
- African Union / AUDA-NEPAD
- Eastern, Central & Southern African Alliances

Member-country ecosystem (locally rooted)
- Ministries & Article 6 focal points
- Regulators and designated authorities
- Private sector, civil society, project developers

THE ALLIANCE'S ROLE

- Aggregates country priorities
- Builds shared regional capacity
- Coordinates regional positions
- Connects countries with finance, expertise and markets

CONNECTED TO THE GLOBAL ECOSYSTEM



International climate governance (participation)
- UNFCCC - COPs - SB sessions
- Article 6 processes
- I4C, Climate Weeks

Markets & implementation partners
- IETA, World Bank, GGGI, SONAGED,
- VCMI and carbon-market initiatives
- International technical partners

Climate finance & government partners
- Germany / IKI, UK / DESNZ
- West Africa Carbon Market Hub

Mobilising finance, technology and mitigation on the ground

What the region has actually delivered: credits issued, projects registered and finance flowing into West African mitigation activities

71.8 Mt CO_{2e}

carbon credits issued from voluntary carbon market (56.5 $MtCO_{2e}$) and CDM (15.2 $MtCO_{2e}$) activities across Alliance countries

330

mitigation projects registered in the voluntary carbon market

35.9 Mt CO_{2e}

from clean-cooking activities - the region's largest source (30.2 $MtCO_{2e}$ from VCM and 5.7 $MtCO_{2e}$ from CDM)

FINANCE MOBILISATION

BOAD Carbon Market Place

Launched by the West African Development Bank at COP28, it consolidates and channels funding for carbon market development - aggregating supply, reducing fragmentation and giving investors a bankable, rules-based framework.

Carbon Market Hubs

Where West African project developers meet investors and buyers – Abidjan in 2023, Senegal in 2025, Ghana in 2027.

TECHNOLOGY AND MITIGATION ON THE GROUND

360+ Alliance flights compensated through Clean cooking offsetting programme, Nigeria

Improved cookstoves under a Gold Standard programme - the source of the credits the Alliance retires to stay carbon neutral. 950 Carbon Emission Reductions were purchased and cancelled, compensating 169tCO_2e.



Part III

SHAPING THE NEXT DECADE



Advancing the Carbon Markets and Climate Finance Agenda

Vision for the next decade: West African countries are equipped with the institutional capacity, regional platforms and international standing, to scale implementation of carbon markets and climate finance

01 Harmonisation and regional impact

- Anchoring Alliance readiness work in the ECOWAS Regional Carbon Market Platform, validated in Abuja in August 2026
- Aligning with African Union processes
- Operationalising the Ministerial Declaration of Pointe Sarene across member countries

02 Accelerating pipelines and attracting investment

- Leveraging the BOAD Carbon Market Place for high-integrity regional supply
- Mobilising investment alongside IETA and B-PMI, GGGI, BOAD and bilateral partners
- Raising the visibility of West African pipelines through the Alliance website country pages and in international market fora
- Serving as gateway for private and sovereign buyers

03 West Africa's voice for high-integrity markets

- Coordinating Article 6 positions through the African Group of Negotiators and UNFCCC submissions
- Translating technical Article 6 dialogues into practical regional guidance for member countries
- Embedding integrity, MRV and transparency standards in national carbon market frameworks

The Alliance, in 2028 and beyond

Vision

Building on the accomplishments since 2016, the West African Alliance seeks to position its member countries as leading and credible actors in international carbon markets, enabling increased access to results-based climate finance and accelerating the implementation of ambitious climate and sustainable development goals.



Mission

The West African Alliance supports its member countries in navigating and engaging in international carbon markets through regional cooperation, capacity building, technical support, and strategic partnerships that unlock climate finance for NDC implementation.



Closing words



Ousmane Fall SARR
Alliance Coordinator,
ARC Holding

Ten years ago, at COP22 in Marrakech, a handful of West African experts shared one conviction: our countries would be stronger together. The rules of Article 6 were unwritten, and capacities were limited.
An idea that fit on the back of a napkin has become a regional institution, trusted by sixteen member countries and recognised by the global climate community.
Today, our members have national frameworks, stronger institutions and a growing role in Article 6 implementation. Our greatest asset remains unchanged: members and partners who share openly and move forward together.
The next decade has one clear mission: turn readiness into investment and tangible benefits for our people, without compromising integrity or national climate priorities.

Ten years ago, we chose to walk together. Today, we choose to lead together.



Closing words



Dr. Asmau Jibril
Chair of Steering Committee
&
Nigeria Focal Point

As we commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the West African Alliance for Carbon Markets and Climate Finance, we celebrate not only a decade of achievements, but also a decade of partnership, leadership, learning and collective commitment to advancing climate action across our region. The accomplishments highlighted in this booklet reflect the dedication of our Member States, institutions, partners and stakeholders in strengthening carbon market readiness, mobilising climate finance and fostering regional cooperation.

As we look to the next decade, the Alliance remains committed to building on these foundations, embracing emerging opportunities, strengthening regional capacity and ensuring that carbon markets and climate finance contribute meaningfully to sustainable development, resilience and a just transition in West Africa. I commend all those who have contributed to this remarkable journey and invite us all to renew our commitment to an even more ambitious, inclusive and impactful future for the Alliance.



Closing words



Rachel Pekker
Germany Federal Ministry
BMUKN, Division International
Climate Finance,
Carbon Markets and
Transformation Finance

Since 2021, I have had the pleasure of accompanying the West African Alliance and watching it grow into a strong, country-led platform for cooperation and capacity-building and a confident and proud voice for the region. What has impressed me most is the commitment and positive energy of its members. The Alliance is an inspiring example for other regions.

The Alliance offers a valuable space to identify capacity needs across member countries, exchange experiences openly and learn from one another as they work together to implement Article 6. Over the years I was able to join lively discussion during member meetings, regional private sector workshops, steering committee meetings and many other events. I have witnessed the open and supportive spirit of the Alliance where members are able to ask questions without worrying that a question might be considered "too basic". This willingness to share, listen and learn is one of the Alliance's great strengths. By building knowledge, confidence and a shared understanding, the Alliance also enables countries to engage confidently with private-sector actors and carbon-market buyers, and to communicate their needs clearly.

I would also like to recognize the outstanding dedication of its coordinator, Ousmane with his visionary ideas, of the BOAD, of the secretariat, of the technical partners and mostly of its committed members. As a representative of Germany, a founding supporter and financial partner, I am proud to have accompanied the Alliance on this journey.

I look forward to seeing the West African Alliance further strengthen West Africa's voice and engagement in international carbon markets. May the next 10 years be even more successful.



Closing words



Lydia Ondraczek
Senior Policy Advisor,
GIZ

Establishing the West African Alliance was one of the most rewarding experiences of my work on international carbon markets. Working closely with West African colleagues and partners, I worked to translate our shared ambition for stronger regional cooperation into a lasting platform shaped by the priorities of its members.

From the outset, we wanted the Alliance to connect international negotiations with practical support for countries, strengthen regional expertise and create space for mutual learning. Regional ownership and a structure anchored in West Africa were central to that vision. Seeing how members have made the Alliance their own and developed it further is a source of particular joy.

My heartfelt thanks go to the colleagues and partners who brought this shared ambition to life. What began with committed people coming together has grown into a strong regional voice. I am proud to have laid its foundations together with them.



Closing words



Chris Shipley
Head of Global Carbon Markets, United Kingdom Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

The UK is proud to have supported the West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance (WAA), bringing together 16 countries to advance Article 6 readiness and access to carbon finance.

This has helped strengthen the WAA's website and Knowledge Hub, providing a bilingual platform to share practical resources, country experience, and carbon market opportunities. Looking ahead, we stand ready to build on this partnership, sharing practical lessons and accelerating high-integrity markets across the continent.



Closing words



Dr. Sandra Greiner
Technical Partner,
Climate Focus

Watching the Alliance grow from a concept that fits on the "back of a napkin" to an institution that is recognized by West African governments and the global climate community alike, has been an extraordinary experience. The success can be attributed to the collaboration of many different actors within and outside West Africa that have contributed their ideas, time and resources. Building on this foundation, I believe the Alliance can reach even greater heights in the future.

As international carbon markets have turned from negotiations to implementation, the Alliance is uniquely positioned to support its strategic use in the sub-region and serve as a platform for dialogue between buyers and sellers, governments, civil society and the private sector. Climate Focus is proud to have accompanied the Alliance from the start as a technical partner and member of its steering committee, alongside a growing community of international and local technical partners.



Closing words



El Hadji Mbaye DIAGNE
Technical Partner,
Afrique Energie
Environnement

L'évolution de l'Alliance ouest-africaine au cours des dix dernières années reflète celle des marchés carbone eux-mêmes depuis l'adoption de l'Accord de Paris. Les premières années ont été marquées par un appui aux négociations au sein de la CCNUCC pour la définition des règles, des actions de sensibilisation et des efforts visant à mieux faire comprendre ce que le cadre émergent de l'Article 6 signifiait pour les pays africains. Aujourd'hui, les pays travaillent sur des questions beaucoup plus opérationnelles : mise en œuvre de la stratégie Article 6, cadre juridique et institutionnel, procédures d'approbation et d'autorisation, application des ajustements correspondants, registres, méthodologies, mécanismes de partage des bénéfices, rapportage à la CCNUCC , de renet intégration des marchés carbone dans les stratégies climatiques nationales.
En tant que partenaire technique, Afrique Énergie Environnement a eu l'occasion d'accompagner ce processus d'apprentissage, de renforcement des capacités et de constater la valeur d'une approche combinant échanges régionaux et un appui adapté aux besoins de chaque pays.

Il n'existe pas de modèle unique pour la mise en œuvre des activités relatives aux marchés carbone, mais les pays tirent un bénéfice considérable du partage d'expériences avec leurs pairs. Préserver cette combinaison de rigueur technique, d'apprentissage entre pairs et d'approches portées au niveau national sera essentiel alors que l'Alliance entre dans sa prochaine décennie et accompagne les pays dans le passage de la préparation à une mise en œuvre effective.
L'alliance pourra, par la crédibilité que lui confèreront les pays membres et par les résultats concrets sur le terrain, jouer un rôle actif dans toutes les opérations de renforment des capacités, de développement de projets et programmes ainsi que de partage des informations entre les pays en collaboration avec la CCNUCC et les partenaires actifs dans ces domaines.



Closing words



Moubarak MOUKAILA
Head of Sustainable Development Finance, BOAD

The partnership between BOAD and the West African Alliance reflects a shared ambition: to strengthen the capacity of West African countries to access carbon markets and climate finance on terms that support their national priorities. Over the years, the Alliance has created an important space for countries to exchange experiences, identify common challenges and develop practical approaches to the implementation of Article 6.

As the financial trustee of the Alliance, BOAD is pleased to contribute to this regional effort and to support a platform that increasingly connects technical readiness with the broader question of financing implementation. The coming years offer an opportunity to build on this foundation by strengthening the Alliance's long-term sustainability, deepening partnerships and mobilising resources that can support countries as they move towards implementation and investment. We look forward to continuing this journey alongside the Alliance's members and partners.



Acknowledgements

The West African Alliance would like to thank its member countries, partners, local experts and stakeholders who have contributed to the Alliance's work over the past decade.

The Alliance acknowledges with appreciation the contributions of BOAD, BMUKN, Climate Focus, Afrique Energie Environnement, Perspectives Climate Group and the local experts, whose partnership and expertise it has relied on throughout these ten years.

BOAD
BANQUE OUEST AFRICAINE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

AFC HOLDING
African Resilience Company

CLIMATE FOCUS

ENDA ENERGIE

perspectives climate group

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

RCC West and Central Africa
Collaboration for Climate Action

IKI INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE

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