



Aligning the Climate and SDG Agenda
(views from Ghana)

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Overview of Ghana

- West Africa Nation with vibrant democracy.
- Ghana's economy is natural-resource based.
- Cost of environmental degradation is estimated at 10% of GDP.
- Natural-resource dominant export commodities
 - Cocoa, oil palm, cashew
 - Gold
 - Oil and gas
 - Timber
 - And others



Overview of Ghana

- Rising human population (30m people, growing at 2.7%) and urbanisation
- Rising public debt (debt to GDP ratio has hit 70%)
- COVID-19 impact on the economic (small-business, job losses, incomes, productivity, public health cost)
- Climate vulnerable country
- Ambitious industrialisation agenda
 - integrated aluminium industry
 - automobile industry,
 - Agribusiness and rural development
 - Integrated iron and steel development

Main challenges

- Infrastructure deficit (eg. Affordable housing, road construction)
- Climate change impact is a multiplier of development and public health challenges
- Inefficient transport system (vehicular traffic congestion etc)
- Inefficient waste management (open burning, inadequate recycling etc)
- Deforestation/Land degradation
- Unbalanced energy-mix (mainly hydro and thermal)
- Rising Household Air Pollution (HAP) and Ambient Air Pollution (AAP)
 - Mortality rate >> 105 people /100,000
 - 16,000 die prematurely
 - Economic cost of air pollution is estimated at US\$2.5 billion (~ 4.2% of the 2017 GDP)

Using nationally determined contribution and the SDG to address the climate-development-public health conundrum

- The Paris Agreement provide the global policy framework for countries to collectively combat climate change and meet SDG.
- Countries do so through the implementation of the nationally determined contributions.
- Ghana's nationally determined contribution is the flagship climate action for 10 years and addresses issues relating to:
 - Lowering deforestation
 - Building resilience on vulnerable landscape
 - Promoting renewable energy
 - Alternative waste management
 - Sustainable industry production
 - Urban mass transport

Integrating climate, public health SDG into national development

- Ghana's fundamental strategy to tackling climate change, public health, and SDGs is not to isolate and then treat them in silos but integrate at all levels.

- Climate action and SDGs are mainstreamed into key national development documents
 - Ghana Beyond Aid Charter Strategy Document.
 - Ghana @ 100 frameworks and the accompanying national Infrastructure plan.
 - Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policy.
 - 2021 to 2024 Medium-Term Development Plan
 - COVID 19 Alleviation and Revitalisation of Enterprises Support

- Mainstreaming is the surest to mobilise public finance, and lines ministries, local government

Some achievements on SDG and climate actions

- Beyond mainstreaming, Government working with private sector to mobilise finance for SDG and climate action.
- Established the SDG delivery and Green funds in 2019 with the target to raise US\$100 million and US\$200 million led by private sector.
- EPA, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NaCCA) and Ghana Education Service, has incorporated climate change issues into school curricula.
- Prepares SDG compliant budget and publishes SDG budget tracking.
- Mobilising carbon finance through Article 6 pilots to support climate actions, promote clean cooking and reduce indoor air pollution (Unprecedented Ghana-Switzerland Agreement on carbon market)
- Establish green credit line with local bank to support green businesses

Some relevant policy reforms

- Adopted Vehicular emission standards
- Introduced diesel Fuel Quality Standard (Sulphur content reduction from 500ppm to 50ppm)
- Commenced environmental fiscal reforms policy with to establish green fund
- Introduced tax exemption for solar panels and wind generation systems
- Petroleum Exploration and Development Act, 2016, (Act 919) to restrict gas flaring in petroleum exploration and development.
- Adopted (New-2018) Building Codes: energy efficiency and green buildings
- Sustainable source of power generation (Nuclear energy option- 350MW installed capacity in 2028-2019)

Lessons

- Enhance stakeholder engagement (whole government machinery approach)
- Raising awareness i.e hands-on approach
- Mobilise private sectors
- Consistent high-level support through NDPC representing the government efforts
- Facilitate and negotiate to achieve NDC and SDG target
- MESTI playing pivotal role through sector agencies particularly EPA
- Mobilize technical and financial support for local participation through MMDA's
- Multi-sectoral collaboration (eg. Institutions of Higher Learning, Reseach, Legislature and Law enforcement)