# CLIMATE ACTION IN GHANA

## Country context

Climate change is perceived as a great threat to Ghana's socio-economic development. To address this, the government has implemented various policy frameworks, including the 2012 **National Climate Change Policy** (NCCP). Even before the Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) project began in 2013, government had focused on how to mainstream climate change into development planning at both local and national levels, and recognised the LECB project as a significant opportunity to support existing efforts to transition to low carbon development.

Ghana's development agenda has been guided by the **National Development Plan**, and the **Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda 1** (GSGDA I, 2010) and **Agenda II** (2014-2017).

Objectives in GSGDA I addressing climate challenges were translated into action points in the NCCP 2012, which focused on how to limit greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in key economic sectors such as energy, transport, forestry, agriculture and industry.

The **NCCP** also recognised the need to build capacity to establish a national GHG inventory system and to formalise its procedures and legal arrangements to collect and archive climate action data. The establishment of the GHG inventory system has been crucial in order to respond to the reporting requirements of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has provided the foundation for a strengthened system for tracking NDC progress.

# LECB GHANA at a glance

**Total financing**
US $1,134,600

**5 Timeframe**
5 years (2013-2018)

**Sectors**
Energy

**Counterparts**
Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI); Energy and Climate Change Unit of the Environment Protection Agency (EPA)

**Thematic areas**

- [x] Institutional frameworks
- [x] GHG inventory systems
- [x] NAMAs
- [ ] LEDS
- [x] INDC support
- [x] MRV systems
- [x] Private sector involvement
- [x] Climate finance



# RESULTS

## Improved national systems for GHG inventory

Two GHG inventory manuals, the Guidance on Uncertainty Management for National Greenhouse Gas Inventory and National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Manual of Procedures, were developed to support both GHG emission data providers and inventory data compilers from all sectors on the national GHG inventory process. These publications and the associated outreach and training have helped to streamline Ghana's approach to and methodology for inventory reporting. LECB also supported the development of a Climate Change Data Hub, an online database for Ghana's climate reporting that has been expanded to include NDC target reporting.

## Developed and submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)

LECB provided substantial support to the Government of Ghana in the development and submission of its INDC to the UNFCCC. As part of the process, the Ministry of Environment (MESTI) engaged with a wide number of agencies and authorities to explain what the Paris Agreement would mean for Ghana. By using the expertise from working groups that LECB instituted, Ghana successfully developed its submission without the support of international consultants. The capacity and awareness of each of the technical working groups was enhanced through collaboration and peer-to-peer expert knowledge exchange.

## Supported private sector engagement and investment in NAMAs

The Private Enterprise Federation (PEF) and the MESTI developed a NAMA Investor Guide to provide information to the business community on NAMA investment opportunities. The PEF led the process of promoting the guide and engaged with the Ghana Investment and Promotion Centre (GIPC) around this, which brought the private sector closer to government and enabled the government to quantify GHG emissions from small-scale private sector activities.

The PEF also established a NAMA Private Sector Platform with members from the NAMA sectors of energy, waste, agriculture, forestry, transport and industry. The result has been an enabling environment for dialogue and partnerships with government and multilateral agencies for NAMA implementation.

**+930 Stakeholders from private and public sector trained**
to use the GHG inventory manuals and contribute to the national Climate Change Data Hub

**9,162,122**
**Tonnes of $CO_2$**
estimated reduction over the 12-year life span of the clean energy NAMA approved to date

**55 Potential NAMAs identified**
by the Investor Guide in the areas of energy, waste, agriculture, forestry and industrial processes

## Development of NAMAs to increase clean energy access and provision

A country-wide energy NAMA was developed through the LECB project in Ghana to increase access to clean energy through the establishment of market-based solutions. The NAMA has two main objectives: enable private sector participation in the manufacture and distribution of clean energy technologies such as solar photovoltaic (PV) lanterns and liquefied petroleum gas cookstoves; and create an enabling market environment that encourages the distribution of clean energy technologies to consumers, enabled by an appropriate financing model. The NAMA puts forward the establishment of 28 Energy Productivity Zones across the country, powered by their own solar PV power plants. Implementation of the NAMA will be led by various ministries and government agencies and will include the private sector and local communities. The proposed lifespan of the NAMA is from 2017 to 2028.

## Development of climate MRV tools

Monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) tools, for tracking climate action and finance, were completed in partnership with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Program. This collaboration is an example of the synergies built with other climate change programmes.

# IMPACTS

### Engaged and capacitated private sector geared to investing in Ghana's NDC mitigation actions

The collaboration between the PEF and GIPC, working with various groups within the private sector, helped to build awareness and networks, as well as engage and capacitate the private sector on how they could contribute tangibly to securing the NAMAs, through investments. This was supported by the development of the NAMA Investor Guide which raised awareness in the private sector.

### Embedded institutional capacity in national-level GHG inventory reporting, underpinned by the development of the Climate Change Data Hub

More streamlined system for reporting at the national level and defined roles and responsibilities help Ghana to meet its reporting requirements to the UNFCCC.

### Institutional and technical capacity of Government agencies strengthened

Most of the development and reporting activities were carried out internally. Prior to LECB some expertise in the country existed, but it was restricted to a small number of key individuals. With LECB support, this knowledge and capacity has been transferred to various institutions in key line ministries.

### Capacitated electricity sub-sector around MRV and GHG inventory reporting

This was achieved through sector-wide training of mining and electricity production companies on carbon accounting and MRV techniques. This endeavour itself also represents effective intra-governmental agency collaboration, between the EPA and Energy Commission, with support from LECB.

### Raised profile of NDCs in national budget reviews and allocations

LECB led to high-level engagement with parliamentary and national economic management teams. As a result, the Parliamentary Committee on Environment proposed that in the allocation of the national budget, all projects are reviewed with reference to NDCs.

## General overview of the UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building Programme

Since its inception, the UNDP LECB programme has paved the way for effective and lasting climate action by building capacities of government staff to develop policies, strategies and tools that help implement their climate change goals. Focusing specifically on essential building blocks such as strengthening GHG inventory data and systems; formalization of institutional arrangement for climate actions; development and alignment of low emission development strategies (LEDS); and the creation of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), LECB provided much of the enabling environment necessary for countries to respond quickly to emerging needs, such as the submission of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and socialization of the Paris Agreement. Given its flexible nature and strong country ownership, often the originally-envisaged and measurable LECB outputs have been exceeded, leading to some unplanned but highly welcomed additional impacts.

CASE STUDY

# ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE DATA HUB

LECB Ghana provided direct support for the establishment of the Climate Change Data Hub, an online dashboard for Ghana's climate reporting (https://climatedatahubgh.com/). The hub serves as a one-stop information sharing portal on Ghana's actions to tackle climate change and the benefits thereof.

Consisting of five portals, each dedicated to a specific climate change theme, it provides up-to-date information to users and a way to communicate across themes:

- **The GCF Pipeline**, provides a list of projects seeking funding from the GCF and a space for the National Designated Authority to communicate with and post announcements for current and potential project proponents.
- **The NDC portal** provides important details and updates on the level of implementation of Ghana's priority NDC actions and their outcomes, overall progress towards achieving the goals set out in the NDC and the investments made and needed.
- **The GHG Emissions Database portal** contains an archived dataset used for the calculation of the national GHG emissions estimate for 1990-2012. The objective of compiling and providing this database is to improve archiving of GHG data and ensure increased accessibility for the general public.
- **The Domestic Electronic Registry System (DERS) portal** is a centralized data point for climate actions in ministries, cities and at project level with funding from multiple sources. It contains information on the climate actions and their effects, and more.
- **The Policies and Measures Database (PAMS) portal** is a collection of climate-related policies and measures in the productive economic sectors in Ghana, with a built-in tracker to monitor the progress of implementation.

The hub also provides links to all key institutional players in Ghana's climate change space, as well as news, publications and blogs that all serve to increase the availability and accessibility of information on Ghana's climate actions for the general public.

The UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme was launched in January 2011 as part of a joint collaboration between the European Union, the Governments of Germany and Australia and UNDP. It is a global programme that helps countries build the public and private sector capacities needed to scale up country-driven mitigation actions.

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MESTI

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