



West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program

From Shared
Coastal Vision to
Sustainable Reality



WORLD BANK GROUP

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Challenge Presents Opportunity



“Before we had coconut trees,” said Amélé Effowe of Togo, one of a few residents clinging to a community being swallowed by the sea. “We could produce coconut oil. Coastal erosion took away our coconut trees. And we have no other activity.” West Africa has raised a unified voice; supported by the World Bank and partners, governments are beginning to protect and manage West Africa’s coastal assets. The challenge is massive, requiring investment projects and a scale-up mechanism.

The first West Africa Coastal Resilience Investment Project (WACA ResIP) was approved by the World Bank in April 2018. The financial package includes a credit of \$190 million from the World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA), and a grant of \$20.25 million from the Global Environment Facility. Already, the WACA program works with six countries (Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Togo) and existing regional institutions, including the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union. The Nordic Development Fund and France has since contributed additional resources, and others are expected to follow.

The investment is urgent: Coastal erosion and flooding in West Africa severely threaten people’s communities, livelihoods, safety and infrastructure. Stronger storms and rising seas are wiping out homes, roads and buildings that have served as landmarks for generations. Some beaches are deeply mined for sand, protective mangroves are deforested, and people are increasingly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Some residents have no choice but to move away—a trend that is breaking up communities and changing the social fabric for future generations.

Countries are acting to contain erosion and flooding with a suite of evidence-based solutions. But there is an urgent need for partners to mobilize financing through coordinated regional action. Collaboration at the policy and technical levels helps countries mitigate the effects of erosion and maintain the livelihoods that healthy coastal ecosystems provide to people and economies.

The WACA Platform is a Technical Assistance Project including initial support from the Nordic Development Fund (NDF) and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). The vision of WACA is to create a dynamic space for coastal countries and partners, where they share knowledge, expertise, and access finance. The project engages countries through TA to unbundle the complex coastal development challenges into actionable priorities and will mobilize the leadership at the national level to effectively advance concrete investment projects. In parallel, countries engage at the regional level to set priorities and coordinate cross-border investments while harmonizing policies.

Context

Every year, about half-a-million people living along West Africa's coastline are adversely affected by floods and aggravated coastal erosion. In some areas, the coastline is eroding by as much as 20 meters or more per year. In 2016, about a third of the region's population (over 120 million) lived in coastal provinces.

Rapid and often unplanned urbanization has devastated the natural landscape that once served as a buffer for erosion and flooding. These developments disproportionately affect the poorest and most marginalized and will intensify due to climate change.

Coastal erosion and flooding affect coastlines around the world. The World Bank Group is the largest provider of climate and disaster resilience-related investment finance. It is a significant player in resilient infrastructure finance through regional programs including, Caribbean Resilience Initiative and Program, Pacific Resilience Program and ongoing national programs; and the Southwest Indian Ocean Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative. The Bank has also launched the Small Island States Resilience Initiative.





Transformative Action

West African countries are working together to address challenges posed by their shrinking coastline. The **West African Coastal Areas Management Program (WACA)** was developed by the World Bank Group in partnership with the program's ultimate beneficiaries: the people who live along the West African coast and depend on it for their livelihoods, nutrition, food security, and prosperity. This program targets countries keen to improve the management of shared natural and man-made risks affecting coastal communities.

The WACA program provides countries with access to technical expertise and finance to support sustainable development in the coastal zone, using management of coastal erosion and hazardous flooding as an entry point. The World Bank and its partners are pioneering this first-of-its-kind regional approach to address severe coastal erosion.

More partners are expected to join the effort through the new platform launched in November 2018 in Dakar, Senegal. The WACA Platform will create a coastal master plan through the exchange of knowledge, crowding in of investments, and political dialogue among countries.

Key Figures and Facts

- West Africa's coastal population is increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, especially among the poor, whose already precarious livelihoods depend on the quality and quantity of natural resources.
- At least 40% of West Africa's GDP is generated in coastal provinces, where one third of the population resides.
- About 80% of coastal pollution originates from land-based sources, primarily industrial, agricultural and urban.
- Togo and Mauritania each lost more than 2 percent of GDP to coastal erosion in one year. West Africa's Governments are committed to protecting the most vulnerable people and enable their communities to prosper with resilience building and adaptation to the increasing threat of climate change.
- People and livelihoods are at the center of the West African coastal agenda. WACA is aligned with job creation, sustainable growth and a thriving coastal environment that relies on more mangroves, resilient reefs, increased fish stock, better food security, and the deliberate slowing of man-made erosion.
- The Blue Economy has also become a vital pillar of the African Union Agenda 2063, the Africa Climate Business Plan, and the World Bank. The West Africa region has generous coastal and marine assets that need to be protected and amplified.



Coastal Solutions

Challenge	Possible intervention	Rationale
Coastal erosion and flooding	<p>Increasing and preserving areas with green or natural infrastructure (mangroves, sand dunes, vegetation, coastal aggregates, coastal forest, lagoons and coastal swamps, water plants).</p> <p>Providing sustainable alternatives to activities that contribute to the continued degradation of coastal areas (such as sand mining).</p> <p>Identifying infrastructure solutions and mitigating their environmental impact.</p>	<p>Natural infrastructure provides ecological services that need to be preserved. These services include water filtration services; habitats that serve as fisheries, hatcheries, or refuges; and the coastal infrastructure protection that anchors them.</p>
Marine pollution	<p>Collecting data on the sources, volumes, and effects of marine pollution throughout the region in order to draft appropriate legislation, regulation, and enforcement functions.</p> <p>Identifying clean-up projects for oil spills, untreated wastewater discharge, and solid waste.</p>	<p>Marine pollution has the potential to affect the health, fisheries, and tourism sectors.</p> <p>The capacity to draft regulation and enforce legislation needs strengthening at all levels.</p>
Depletion of fish stocks	<p>Identifying and rehabilitating natural habitats to preserve productive ecosystems and increase resilience, managing access and adjusting fishing capacity to resource potential.</p>	<p>A holistic approach to fisheries that goes beyond the traditional fisheries sector governance to address climate change, pollution and habitat loss while fostering a collaborative management approach with coastal communities.</p>
Rapid urbanization	<p>Planning for sustainable development and zoning for coastal tourism and ecotourism.</p> <p>Designing policies for the use of land and institutions to strengthen property rights and address informal settlements.</p> <p>Defining measures such as coastal protection, managed population relocation, and accommodation, through a process that involves consultations with stakeholders and respects social safeguards.</p>	<p>Forward-looking urban participatory planning would guide urban expansion while reducing sprawl and prevent development in environmentally sensitive coastal areas.</p>

WACA Partners

WACA Partners Include:

Abidjan Convention: abidjanconvention.org/

Abidjan Aquatic Wildlife Partnership: www.oceancare.org/en/abidjan-wildlife/

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): www.ecowas.int/

European Space Agency (ESA): www.esa.int/ESA

French Development Agency: afd.fr

French Global Environment Facility (FFEM): www.ffem.fr/lang/en/accueil-FFEM/ffem

French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition:
www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr

Global Center on Adaptation: gca.org

Global Environment Facility (GEF): www.thegef.org

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR): www.gfdr.org/

Green Climate Fund (GCF): www.greenclimate.fund/home

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): www.iucn.org/

MAVA Foundation: www.foundationmava.org

Nordic Development Fund: www.ndf.fi/

Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation: www.aecid.es

USAID—WABICC: www.usaid.gov/west-africa-regional/fact-sheets/west-africa-biodiversity-and-climate-change-wa-bicc

Water Sector Program: www.wsp.org/



West Africa Coastal Areas
Management Program

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