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Editorial

My Wish for 2023: A Green and Prosperous Future for Africa

As we begin 2023, I would like to send my best wishes to our readers for a healthy and happy new year and express my gratitude for your interest in the World Bank's work in Western and Central Africa.

To look forward and plan for the future, we must also look back at what has already been achieved. In 2022, the region – and the world – continued to grapple with challenges posed by conflict and instability, the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, high debt, inflation, and the effects of the war in Ukraine on food security. These crises have also highlighted the vital importance of collective action for a common good.

This past year, the COP27 – the “Africa COP” – underscored the need to focus on adaptation to realize Africa's core development priorities which was highlighted in a strong call to action by many of our client countries in Sharm el-Sheikh. Moving forward, our goal will be to continue supporting countries to address the short- to medium-term impacts of the climate crisis both through financing and implementing solutions.

Bold challenges call for bold actions. It is imperative that we join forces with countries and other development partners to address national, regional, and international issues. We are pleased to announce the launch of a new dedicated website on [Regional Integration](#) in Africa. This site highlights ongoing projects where the World Bank is collaborating with African countries and regional institutions to empower people, unleash trade, and optimize shared natural resources and economies of scale to achieve transform Africa.

I look forward to all the work we will do together to build a green, resilient, peaceful, and prosperous future for all Africans. I wish you a fruitful start to the year.

Ousmane Diagana

Vice President, Western and Central Africa

HIGHLIGHTS



View of road before storm. Ghana. Photo: World Bank

Journey into the Congo Basin – The Lungs of Africa and Beating Heart of the World

Spanning over six countries, the **Congo Basin is the world's largest carbon sink**. In the run-up to the Africa COP-27, Central African voices are calling for adaptation. Listen to voices of local climate champions in an immersive virtual reality journey into the Congo Basin. [Read more](#) and [Explore the Stages](#)

Local communities help restore classified forests in Benin

Wearing his work boots, Apollinaire Atinzovè, the president of the Dan Coordinating Council of Forest Management Units, has just completed his weekly round of monitoring reforestation work and he is all smiles. He is pleased with the return of vegetation in almost all of the Dan classified forest. Three years ago, 85% of the forest had been destroyed by bush fires and uncontrolled logging. [To read more](#)

Land, soil and climate change: How Nigeria is enhancing climate resilience to save the future of its people

Increasing climate variability in Nigeria is causing more intense and untimely rainfall. Adding to land degradation, flash floods, landslides, and gully erosion have worsened across one of the ten most vulnerable countries to climate

change impacts. By 2009, an estimated 6,000 gullies were destroying roads, highways, pipelines, and houses across rural and urban Nigeria. Many Nigerians lived in fear and despair due to these extreme weather events. [To read more](#)

Regional integration new website

The World Bank is collaborating with African countries and regional institutions to empower people, unleash trade, and optimize shared natural resources and economies of scale to achieve Africa's transformation. African countries are working together to address common challenges and harness their shared strengths to realize the continent's potential market of 1.2 billion people. [To read more](#)

EVENTS

Recent events you may have missed

- October 15, 2022 - [State of the Africa Region Event](#)
- October 17-18 2022 - [Launch of African centers of excellence](#)
- November 6-18, 2022 - [COP27 replay](#)

Upcoming event

April 10-16, 2023 - Spring meetings: More information [here](#) soon

AFW IN THE NEWS



Ousmane Diagana: TV5 Monde Interview

World Bank Vice President for Western and Central Africa, Ousmane Diagana manages technical and financial assistance projects. Can Niger count on the World Bank to meet its economic and security challenges? What support for Africa after COP27? Presented by: Denise Époté. [Watch the interview](#)

Vox Africa

World Bank Vice President for Western and Central Africa, Mr. Ousmane Diagana participated on December 7 in Brussels in the 10th Operational Steering Committee of the Sahel Alliance, which brought together the representatives of the 27 members. [Watch the video](#)

3 key fronts on which Africa must combat climate change

Never before have African countries felt such a sense of urgency to act, adapt, and build resilience. Every year, people are experiencing more floods, soaring temperatures, coastal erosion, land degradation, and other climatic shocks. [Read the Blog](#) by Ousmane Diagana, Vice President for Western and Central Africa.

New: Regional Podcast series by end of this month

With a motto of putting our people first, we will be launching a new regional podcast at the end of this month to give voice to people in the region, while putting the spotlight on how the World Bank is helping improve their lives. Called “People First,” our new podcast will feature episodes in French, English or Portuguese. You will be able to listen and subscribe for free on your favorite platform – Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Stitcher, and more!

PEOPLE FIRST: STORIES OF PEOPLE THAT CHANGE LIVES



How rural women in Nigeria are improving their livelihoods

“We had our group cash-out yesterday and decided to use the balance to buy a piece of farmland. We have paid 50,000 naira as a deposit to the landowner, and the tillers are already clearing the land,” Victoria Aderupakun, a 54-year-old farmer and member of a Women Affinity Group established with the support of the Nigeria for Women Project. [Read more](#)



A favorable Forest Investment Program in Burkina Faso

Yacouba Lido is a herder in Galo, a village in the commune of Sapouy, located about 100 km from Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. He owns a herd of several hundred cattle. In the past, when he needed to vaccinate his animals, he and his fellow pastoralists had no choice but to cut down trees to build wooden vaccination pens. [Read more](#)



The central bus station: a showcase for the city of Bohicon in Benin

It's market day in Bohicon and, as usual, the paved road leading to the central bus station has been taken over by vendors set up along the road in a disorderly fashion, making access to the station difficult for taxi drivers. [Read more](#)



Côte d'Ivoire: Women are winning the fight against malnutrition

"If malnutrition is a sign of poverty, then our women have partially conquered it in Kpafonon," says a clearly pleased Solo Laga, a retired teacher. In this village, Solo has seen generations of children fed on Mimintchin (sauce for the poor), as it is known in Senufo, the local language. [Read more](#)

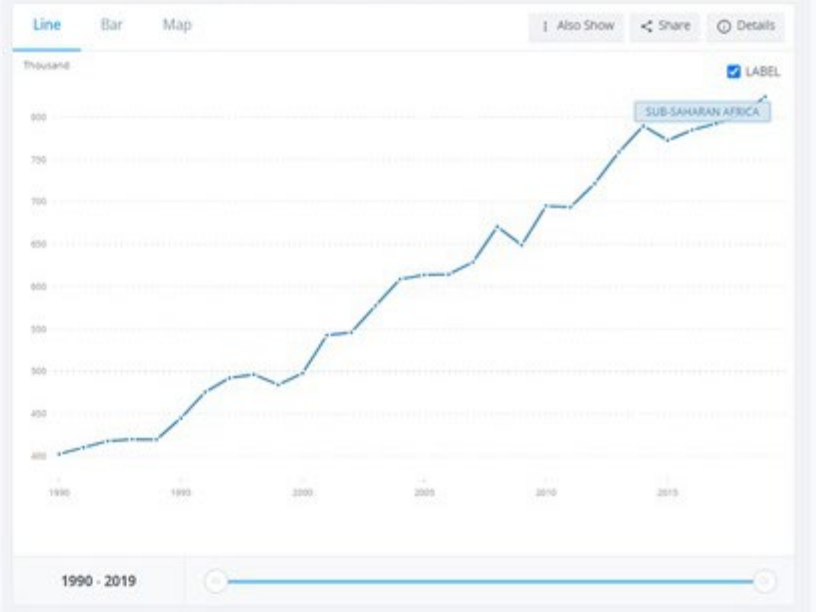
SMART DATA



CO2 emissions (kt) - Sub-Saharan Africa

Climate Watch. 2020. GHG Emissions. Washington, DC. World Resources Institute. Available at: climatewatchdata.org/ghg-emissions.

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823 770 CO2 kt total greenhouse gas emissions in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2019

The World Bank recognizes that transparency and accountability are essential to the development process and central to achieving the Bank's mission to alleviate poverty. Without data, you are just another person with an opinion. As a knowledge institution, the World Bank's first step is to share its knowledge freely and openly. Find [more data and statistics](#) from The World Bank.

RESOURCES YOU MAY FIND USEFUL



New Country Climate and Development Reports

The World Bank Group's [Country Climate and Development Reports \(CCDRs\)](#) are new core diagnostic reports that integrate climate change and development considerations. They will help countries prioritize the most impactful actions that can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and boost adaptation, while delivering on broader development goals.

Cameroon Country Climate and Development Report: The Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) identifies ways that Cameroon can achieve its overall development objectives while fostering the transition to a greener, more resilient, and more inclusive development pathway. [Read the Report](#)

Ghana Country Climate and Development Report: This report explores the ways in which Ghana can pursue its development objectives while considering the challenges of climate change and the opportunities from the transition. [Read the Report](#)

G5 Sahel Region Country Climate and Development Report: The Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) for the G5 Sahel region estimates that up to 13.5 million people across the Sahel could fall into poverty due to climate change-related shocks by 2050 if urgent climate adaptation measures are not taken. [Read the Report](#)

JOBS AND CAREERS



Job opportunities at the World Bank Group

The World Bank Group's recruitment policy is to hire staff of the highest caliber, on as wide a geographical basis as possible, with preference to nationals of WBG member countries or countries of operations.

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