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GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

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The climate change activities of USAID/West Africa seek to promote energy efficiency and minimize harmful environmental impacts as the 21 participating countries increase their energy use. Climate change activities also include environmental monitoring of land use and land cover in the Sahel countries.

Background. USAID/West Africa (USAID/WA) addresses development obstacles that can be most effectively met through actions taken at a regional level. The Mission's strategic objectives include economic integration, health (with a focus on HIV/AIDS prevention), food security/agriculture, and conflict prevention. The Mission is managed out of Accra, Ghana, with a satellite office in Dakar, Senegal, which manages Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance and Food for Peace activities. Countries include Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Chad, Togo, Sao Tome and Principe.

Sector-Specific Climate Change Activities. The Mission's climate change activities include environmental monitoring of land use and land cover (LU/LC), as well as energy activities.

Regional Environmental Monitoring. The West Africa Land Use and Land Cover Trends project is an effort to help quantify the impacts of both human- and climate-driven changes of the last 35 years across the Sahel region. Creating greater public awareness of the environmental issues and land resource changes taking place presently and into the future will help to change behaviors that might have potentially damaged the limited resources currently available.

The project is monitoring major trends in natural resources and makes long-term projections to support regional and national environmental analysis and policymaking. The effort also provides technical assistance for image processing, using satellite imagery for land productivity monitoring, and staging geographic data on the Internet. The complete collection of historical and current satellite imagery also permits West African scientists to document the profound transformations of the region's natural resource base. The project's outputs will be provided to political leaders, environmental decision makers and the broader scientific community, for making informed decisions.

The project has completed several major activities in the last two years, including:

- A land use and land cover (LU/LC) monitoring analysis prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Eros Data Center, working with the Agrhymet Regional Centre and Institute of the Sahel of the Permanent Interstate Committee for the Control of Drought in the Sahel (CILSS). The analysis was then validated in two workshops where the data results were presented by national teams, including Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Togo;

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Partners in USAID/West Africa's climate change and environmental monitoring program include*:

- PA Consulting
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Energy ministries of member states
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- US Geological Survey (USGS) Eros Data Center
- Agrhymet Regional Centre of the Permanent Interstate Committee for the Control of Drought in the Sahel (CILSS)

*Because partners change as new activities arise, this list of partners is not comprehensive.

For more information on USAID/West Africa, visit USAID's Website at:

http://www.usaid.gov

- A comprehensive archive of Landsat and Corona satellite image data covering all the CILSS and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regions, comprising most of the countries. The data was transferred to nearly all national governments;
- Two workshops to train national teams to make projections of LU/LC conditions for the period 2000 to 2030;
- Draft of a regional environmental awareness poster to showcase environmental changes (Benin);
- 14 sites in Niger identified to carry out biophysical and socioeconomic surveys; and
- An entire (12-year) archive of AVHR1 Km resolution vegetation index image data, processed with collaboration between AGRHYMET, NASA and EROS Data Center.

West Africa Power Pool. USAID/WA promotes economic growth through regional integration. It includes training and technical assistance to increase intraregional trade in energy by furthering the development of the West African Power Pool (WAPP). WAPP is a response to the desperate energy shortage in the region and the catastrophic impact this energy shortage has on West African development. The purpose of WAPP is to produce an abundant, reliable, efficient, and affordable energy supply while attracting private sector investment through regional cooperation. The WAPP project seeks to optimize energy resource utilization; harmonize national energy development plans through interconnection of electricity power grids; and ensure security of energy supply to member states at competitive prices. Part of optimizing energy resource utilization aims to minimize harmful environmental impacts and encourage energy efficiency.

Through a public-private partnership, the Mission has provided $8 million for WAPP to help leverage the efforts and resources of multiple partners in developing this viable energy market. Additionally, WAPP leveraged approximately $13 million dollars in total funding from other donors, national governments and utilities and has been negotiating with the World Bank for a $200 million adjustable lending program to finance regional interconnection projects for transmission lines.

In 2005, WAPP provided technical assistance and training to scientists from the energy ministries of 12 West African countries, increasing the capacity of the power pool.