Environmental sustainability lome

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Togo joined the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) in 2014 and has been an integral partner since then, not only in tackling domestic sources of short-lived climate pollutants but also helping to coordinate and heighten the ambition of regional actions on climate and clean air across West Africa.

Togo is home to almost 8 million people and all of them are exposed to the increasing vulnerabilities of living in a climate changed world. In addition to the impact on ecosystems, crop yields, and extreme weather events, a significant portion of the country"s population is consistently exposed to levels of indoor and outdoor air pollution that exceed Worth Health Organization (WHO) guidelines. In 2013 alone it was estimated that this exposure was responsible for over 3,448 premature deaths, primarily from the energy, transport, waste, and agriculture sectors.

Government leaders noted that the country was experiencing exponential growth of cars and motorcycles. According to a study on sustainable low-emission transport, the numbers went from 371,346 in 2005 to 1,011,925 in 2016, an annual growth rate of 6 percent for cars and 13 percent for motorcycles. This problem has been made worse by the fact that these vehicles are often old and imported from abroad and therefore use low-quality, high-polluting fuels. Since 2014, Togo has been working to address these problems through a variety of policy changes and legislation.

Togo"s most ambitious effort, however, is the National Plan for the Reduction of Air Pollution and Short-Lived Climate Pollutants which was adopted by the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Natural Protection in 2020. This policy will implement priority measures and actions which will significantly reduce SLCPs which will reap the multiple benefits of improving air quality, fighting climate change, and realizing co-benefits like improved health and agricultural productivity. Fully implementing it will result in a 67 percent reduction in black carbon, a 70 percent reduction in fine particulate matter, and a 56 percent methane reduction by 2040.

Ministry of the Environment and Forest Resources, BP 4825Lome,Togo

The University of Lom? and the Stockholm Environment Institute have supported Togo’s Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to adopt a more ambitious climate change target. In this perspective, Chris Malley explains that the key was identifying the additional benefits that climate actions would achieve.

This piece was originally published by The Conversation.

Like many African cities, Lom?, the capital of Togo, has a pollution problem.

Its ambient (outdoor) air pollution levels exceed World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for

human health protection. Air pollution is the world"s largest environmental health risk. In Togo, a country of 8 million people, it contributes to 6,700 premature deaths per year.

Air pollutant emissions and emissions that contribute to climate change come largely from the same sources. They include fuel combustion in households, transport, industry, and burning of agricultural and municipal waste. Some pollutants, like black carbon and methane, contribute to both climate warming and air pollution.

To do so, the government of Togo has developed a climate change plan, called its Nationally Determined Contribution, which describes its climate change commitment. It has also developed a National Action Plan to Reduce Air Pollutants, which outlines actions to reduce air pollution.

To inform the development of these plans, we evaluated the impact that implementing ten mitigation measures in Togo would have on reducing air pollutants and climate pollutants simultaneously.

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Web: https://www.kary.com.pl/contact-us/
Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com
WhatsApp: 8613816583346