

Lome reduced carbon emissions

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Chris Malley receives funding from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Climate Promise, the United Kingdom Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition Supporting National Action & Planning initiative.

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.

Togo is not the only West African country using climate change plans as public health improvement strategies. Before the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in 2021, Nigeria, Ghana, and Cote d'Ivoire submitted climate change plans.

If fully implemented, these plans could reduce thousands of premature deaths every year by improving air quality.

If all countries followed climate change plans like these, the global health benefit would be substantial. Over one million premature deaths could be avoided annually by 2050 because of air quality improvements.

[Read more: Air pollution in fast-growing African cities presents a risk of premature death](#)

We quantified the emissions for Togo and Grand Lomé from all major source sectors for the years between 2010 and 2018. Togo emitted an estimated 21 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions in 2018, predominantly from the energy, agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors. These emissions are projected to increase 42% to 30 million tonnes in 2030 if nothing is done. Without intervention air pollution is also expected to worsen, with emissions estimated to increase by between 16% and 60% across different air pollutants.

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We found a large overlap in the major emission sources of gases and particles contributing to both climate change and degraded air quality in Togo. The overlap provides a substantial opportunity to design integrated strategies that simultaneously improve air quality and mitigate climate change.

Our assessment modelled how implementing ten mitigation measures in these overlapping sources would affect emissions.

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