

Adaptation to climate change in coastal countries of West Africa

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This presentation is about some results regarding the ACCC (Adaptation to Coastal and Climate Change in West Africa) project. Funded by GEF under the SPA portfolio, the intent of this project was to develop the resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems to the impacts of increased coastal erosion due to climate change. To develop such a resilience, activities were conducted at local, national and sub regional levels. The first results of this project indicate a strong involvement of local communities mainly through the development of mangrove restoration, dune afforestation and alternative livelihoods activities as well as environmental education. At national level, efforts have been made to mainstream climate change into different development plans, including decentralized development plans. Finally at sub regional level, not only training activities have been organized to strengthen the capacities of the national and local people, but also contribution was made to develop networks of parliamentarians and of local stakeholders to tackle the issue of climate change. Communication tools (website, flyers) have been used to facilitate the interconnection. Of course gaps are still there and need more long term involvement of organizations as well as in terms of funding.

The author is the regional coordinator of the ACCC project, working for IOC/UNESCO. She is also Maitre de Conférences at the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar. She is also engaged in the IPCC process since the end of 1990, being currently one of the CLA of chapter 22 on Africa for the 5th Assessment Report (WGII). She is the chair of the Pan African Committee of START, an international organization working on education and training regarding global change in the developing countries.