PRESERVING HEALTH, AND IMPROVING AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE

A developing country with growing urban centres, Côte d’Ivoire is planning for short and long-term

The Challenge

Emissions from the transportation sector are a growing concern in Cote d’Ivoire with its rapidly developing urban centres, and many people are repeatedly exposed to these and other harmful emissions. Areas identified as priorities for action by the SNAP process in Cote d’Ivoire so far are open burning of waste, cooking with traditional cookstoves, industrial processes and oil refineries. The air pollution from these sources were linked with about 16,000 premature deaths in 2013 due to indoor and outdoor pollution (according to the Global Burden of Disease project - https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/).

Why SNAP?

Cote d’Ivoire joined the SNAP initiative to preserve the health, and improve agriculture and climate of the country, as these are the benefits of addressing SLCPs. However, the SLCP mitigation platform is also being used to gain valuable experience of planning and infrastructure processes to catalyse future efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle long-term climate change. As a developing country it can be difficult to initiate national-level GHG reductions, but SLCP mitigation is more easily accessible to people because of the immediate health, agriculture and climate benefits gained, and this can then motivate further action on other emissions.

Getting Started

Cote d’Ivoire began the national planning process by engaging its national centre on pollution control and establishing necessary inclusive structure. This was accomplished by approaching different stakeholders from important ministries and civic societies as well as the private sector. For example, one stakeholder, the Laboratory for Atmospheric Physics of University Felix Houphouet Boigny is part of Cote d’Ivoire’s advisory group and will inform the planning process. Cote d’Ivoire has now started the process of identifying the major sources of SLCP emissions and the identification of relevant measures to reduce emissions from the relevant sources. This process has used the data structure in the LEAP-IBC tool to identify gaps in relevant data, and the tool will be used for the planning process going forward. Cote d’Ivoire will also use it for CO2 and air pollution emission inventories.

Moving Forward

The national plan developed through the SLCP initiative will inform key processes, particularly implementation of the Paris Agreement. Cote d’Ivoire is also developing an air quality strategy, country and city wide, that the national plan will inform. At the national level, Cote d’Ivoire has established the Environmental Information System. This system has been initiated by the Ministry for Environment and contains all relevant environmental parameters for planning and policy decisions on one platform.
Taking Action

Several priority actions have been identified by the SNAP process in Cote d’Ivoire. These include the waste sector, transportation, refineries and health and urban planning. Analysis has revealed weaknesses in waste management throughout the city. Cote d’Ivoire is taking action to reduce methane and black carbon emissions from waste dumps in the city. The transportation sector is a growing concern especially as Cote d’Ivoire becomes increasingly urbanized. Currently, 80% of the vehicles imported are second hand, meaning they range in age from 7 to 15 years with the average age of 12. Of those, half are diesel, and transportation is a priority sector for policy development, but it needs to be based on strong evidence and knowledge about the sector and the solutions. Meanwhile, the car fleet which is estimated to 600 000 vehicles in use in Côte d’Ivoire has an average age of 19 years. Repeated exposure to emissions from the industrial sector and from cooking with traditional cook stoves has significant impact on the health of many Cote d’Ivoire citizens and this will need to be addressed.

Ivory Coast, officially named the Republic of Côte d’Ivoire is located in West Africa. The port city of Abidjan is largest city with a population of 4.7 million. Ivory Coast is the world’s leading producer of cocoa beans, supplying 33 % of the world production. The country has also one of the most important industrial sectors in West Africa (mainly agro-industries) with the port of Abidjan playing a key role in making available manufactured products to in-land and other countries around the world.