



DIAPOL-CE – Policy Dialogue on Low-Emission Strategies and Resilient Economic Development

Context

In the countries of Africa and Western Asia, the population will continue to grow strongly in the coming decades, and with it the demand for energy and resources. In oil- and gas-producing countries, energy consumption will also be boosted by low energy prices due to subsidies for fossil fuels. As a result, greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise and the burden on ecosystems and natural resources increases. Some sub-Saharan African countries have dynamically growing economies and are investing heavily in developing the associated infrastructure. These investments further fuel economic growth but are also critical to long-term emissions-intensive or low-emissions development pathways. By signing the Paris Climate Agreement and submitting *Nationally Determined Contributions* (NDCs), country governments have committed to developing and implementing strategies to transition to a low-carbon, sustainable economy.

Climate policy goals have played only a minor role in the macroeconomic and sectoral planning of countries in Africa and West Asia. Individual countries have begun to develop financing mechanisms and to implement emission reduction measures in the energy sector and in other areas. However, the energy and economic impacts have hardly been assessed so far. Climate and energy strategies that identify possible development paths to a low-emission economy and a sustainable energy system still lack coherence, long-term perspective and implementation structures.

Objective

The project helps with the regional and supra-regional dissemination of climate and energy policy approaches. The project's measures support policy makers and responsible institutions to systematically design and successfully implement integrated and ambitious climate policies in the form of emission reduction and adaptation strategies. The project contributes to the planning and implementation of ambitious mitigation and adaptation measures in the partner countries and supports them in integrating the measures into their respective NDC targets. In the long term, this supports the transformation to low-emission and resilient economies.

Project title	Policy dialogue and knowledge management on low-emission strategies.
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
Implementing organization	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Countries	Algeria, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Gulf States, Senegal, Uganda, Rwanda
Overall term	03/2014 – 12/2022

Approach

Advice on strengthening climate and energy policies is based on the current needs and developments of the countries and is provided in close coordination with the political partners of the target countries. The project develops suitable instruments to achieve their mitigation and adaptation goals for sub-sectors and accompanies their implementation.

To ensure that knowledge and experience are retained in local structures, the project team cooperates with national institutions in the respective partner countries to implement the activities. Close cooperation with regional organizations, such as the Arab League, and in regional networks also promotes cross-border exchange between politics, business and civil society.

Work Areas

The project advises on mitigation and adaptation strategies, identifies climate-friendly technologies and solutions, promotes regional initiatives, and disseminates information on effective measures in seven fields of work:

Morocco and Tunisia have already developed long-term energy scenarios to support medium- and long-term energy strategies.

To analyze the impact of renewable energy development and energy efficiency improvements on different sectors, the project supports the development of climate-energy-economy models

that can be used to formulate **low-emission development strategies**. By supporting an interdisciplinary network of researchers from across the region working on modeling topics, the project further strengthens capacity and helps lay the groundwork for evidence-based climate and energy policy. The project also published a study analyzing the status quo, plans, and motivations for coal-fired power generation in six MENA countries. Different scenarios for a synthetic country were modeled, illustrating the impacts of coal on emissions and total electricity.

In Iran, the project supports **adaptation strategies** focusing on the implementation of integrated (wastewater) water management in a selected river basin. The project works closely with its local partners to develop sustainable river basin management concepts. In virtual trainings, experts from Iran and Afghanistan are familiarized with aspects of transboundary water management under climate change conditions.

To improve the **financing of climate-friendly technologies**, the project provides technical and economic advice on the use of innovative technologies. In this context, the project also finances training for decision-makers from the financial sector in renewable energy, energy efficiency and risk analysis (Green Banking Capacity Development Initiative). In this way, financial institutions can better evaluate project proposals, including business plans and technology concepts.

As part of the **regional policy initiatives**, the project supports the Energy Department of the Arab League (LAS) together with its technical arm, the Regional Center for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), to implement the Pan Arab Sustainable Energy Strategy. Twelve LAS member countries were supported in the preparation of National Action Plans for the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency. In order to anchor the knowledge in local structures, training events are offered. Energy sector contributions to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Climate Agreement can be better assessed through a regional study and tracking tool. The integration of climate and energy policies is strengthened through joint events and trainings of climate and energy experts from LAS member countries.

The project organizes regional trainings and knowledge exchanges on **energy efficiency measures**. DIAPOL-CE has published a study to analyze and assess the relevance of innovative instruments to promote energy efficiency in the MENA region, focusing on five different countries. In Jordan, a regional energy

efficiency network and a sectoral energy efficiency network have been established with the Jordanian Chamber of Industry. These alliances of companies, one for Central Jordan and one for the food industry, support cooperation and promote the exchange of energy efficiency know-how between companies.

A **climate policy exchange** will be initiated with the **Gulf States**, focusing on the challenges of the group of countries in the area of sustainable water management and diversification of the oil and gas-based economy.

In order to make the experience usable in the long term, the project is engaged in **knowledge management** and is working on successful regional activities and making them accessible for IKI projects worldwide. Ten [good practice cases](#) were selected within this framework. A [newsletter](#) on German and European climate and energy policy is published quarterly for experts in North Africa and West Asia.

Impressum

Publisher:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Contract:
Anita Richter

Köthener Str. 2
10963 Berlin
T +49 30 33 84-24-280
F +49 30 33 84 24-22280
E anita.richter@giz.de
<http://www.giz.de>

Berlin, 2021

Commissioned by: German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

Stresemannstraße 128-130
10117 Berlin

Photos:
Pixabay

<https://www.giz.de/de/weltweit/32164.html>
<https://www.giz.de/de/mediathek/newsletter.html>

Responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the GIZ