

**UNITED NATIONS
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**POSITION PAPER ON
CLIMATE CHANGE
ACTION IN GUINEA**



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Delegate: MOMODU RAHMAN BAH

Introduction

Located on the west coast of West Africa at (latitudes of 7 to 13°N) along the Atlantic ocean is a small francophone African nation called Guinea Conakry. Guinea is composed of typically tropical climate conditions that have one wet season between 5-7 Months (May and October), peaking between July and September. This rainfall season is largely controlled by the movement of the tropical rain belt (also known as the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone, ITCZ) which oscillates between the northern and southern tropics for a year, affecting Guinea when it is in its northern position. Guinea is a coastal country in West Africa and currently one of the wettest in the West African sub-region, with neighbouring dependent on rivers that originate in Guinea. However, climate change is predicted to have severe impacts on Guinea and its precipitation levels. Mean annual temperatures are expected to leap to up to 3°C above pre-industrial levels by the 2060s, which could decrease total precipitation by around one-third.

Assessing the impact vulnerability of Guinea Conakry, the Lower parts of Guinea and, more specifically, its coastal zone are more vulnerable to three climate change effects: (i) sea-level rise, (ii) decrease in precipitations, and (iii) temperature increase.

Guinea is both sensitive and exposed to climate change. Located at the gates of the Sahel, one of the regions of the world most affected by climate change, Guinea must quickly reduce its vulnerability for the benefit of both its people and its neighbours. Guinea is considered as the "water tower of West Africa".

Currently, climate-induced extreme weather events are becoming more intense and frequent, increasingly exposing the population of Guinea to significant risks and hampering development efforts. It is observed that Guinea is at considerable risk of flooding given the inadequate management of stormwater due to, among other things: (i) the topography of the area (steep slopes), the strong and stormy nature of the rains, and the tidal level, which influences the volume of flow at the outlet point; (ii) the poor coverage of drainage networks, often undersized and malfunctioning; and (iv) the lack of regulation of built settlements, characterized by high population densities and the precarious nature of the buildings.

Many literature reviews from other researches show that climate change adaptation will be expensive, especially balanced against vital development and poverty reduction necessities. Funding needs for adaptation beyond development funding needs are estimated at between US\$670 million and US\$1700 million. As is the case in many developing countries, there are massive data gaps. Data explicitly linking climate change impacts to economic variables are especially sparse. Other challenges include a lack of connecting research to policy to inform decision-making processes, fragmented governance, and a lack of private sector involvement in the adaptation landscape.