

COUNTRY PROFILE: BENIN

Introduction

Bordered by Togo, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Niger, Benin has a 121-kilometer-long coastline on the Gulf of Guinea and a population of close to 11.4 million (2018). The country has recently been carrying out key economic and structural reforms.

To promote economic and social development in Benin, the Government is implementing its 2016-2021 Action Programme (PAG), with a growth target of 6.3% on average between 2017 and 2021. The programme should help the country address the challenges it is facing, including the deficit in energy, transport and communication infrastructure, deficiencies in economic and financial governance and a still underdeveloped private sector¹.

The country is highly exposed to the environmental and social consequences of climate change, affecting agriculture productivity, health, food security, economic development, physical infrastructure, and water resources².

National Development Plan

In December 2016, the government of President Patrice Talon adopted the *Programme d'Actions du Gouvernement 2016- 2021* (PAG) aiming at achieving higher rates of economic and social well-being through a three-pronged approach: (a) consolidation of democracy, the rule of law, and good governance; (b) structural transformation of the economy; and (c) improvement of social wellbeing. The PAG is premised on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs as well as the Paris Climate Agreement, and it is structured around 45 flagship projects aimed at improving the productivity and living conditions of the population^{3, 4}.

The PAG serves as the single reference framework for the Government's action. Costing a total of CFAF 9 039 billion (about USD 14 billion), the programme aims to achieve an average growth rate of at least 6.5% over the five-year period. The focus is placed on four major areas to revitalize and ensure the structural transformation of the economy: (i) agriculture, stockbreeding and fisheries; (ii) tourism and culture; (iii) digital economy, telecommunications and ICTs; and (iv) the processing industry, handicraft and trade. To support these measures, the Government will implement a large-scale infrastructure investment programme in three priority sectors: transport, energy and ICTs. Various sector strategies have been developed to support implementation of the PAG, in order to enable the country to address the challenges it faces and to make the best use of its potential and opportunities⁵

Population & Human Development

Despite steady, robust economic growth over the past two decades, Benin's development indicators are among the world's lowest: its HDI value for 2017 is 0.515— which put the country in the low human development category—positioning it at 163 out of 189 countries and territories, below the average of 0.537 for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa⁶.

¹ African Development Bank Group Country Strategy Paper for Benin 2017-2021. September 2017.

² World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Benin for the period FY2019 – FY2023. June 6, 2018

³ World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Benin for the period FY2019 – FY2023. June 6, 2018

⁴ Bénin Révélé. Programme d'Actions du Gouvernement 2016-2021. Présidence de la République du Bénin.

⁵ African Development Bank Group Country Strategy Paper for Benin 2017-2021. September 2017.

⁶ http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/BEN.pdf Accessed August 2019

In 2006, the poverty rate in Benin stood at 37.5 percent, dropping slightly to 35.2 percent in 2009. It then began to rise again, reaching 36.2 percent in 2011 and 40.1 percent in 2015⁷. Female-headed households experience lower levels of poverty (28% compared to 38% for male-headed ones), but generally women suffer from a lack of economic opportunity and are under-represented in high-level decision-making positions⁸.

Between 1990 and 2017, however, Benin's HDI value increased from 0.348 to 0.515, an increase of 47.9 percent. Over the same period, Benin's life expectancy at birth increased by 7.4 years, mean years of schooling increased by 2.0 years and expected years of schooling increased by 7.3 years⁹.

Demographic and other development indicators			
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.515	Literacy rate (ages >15)(2012)	32.95
HDI rank	163	Mean years of schooling (2017)	3.6
Inequality-adjusted HDI	0.326	School enrollment primary (2016)	126.64%
Population size (2018)	11,485,048	School enrollment secondary (2016)	59.04%
Population growth rate (2018)	2.73%	Population living below income poverty line, PPP \$1.90 a day (2015)	49.5%
Projected population in 2030		GNI per capita, PPP (current int. \$)	2400
Urban population (2018)	47.31%	Labour force	4,707,235
Rural population (2018)	52.69%	Labour force participation rate	71.21%
Life expectancy at birth (2017)	61.17 years	Unemployment rate (2018)	2.13%
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births) (2017)	63.5	Political rights (1=Most Free, 7=Least free)	2
Population using improved drinking water sources (2015)	67.02%	Civil Liberties (1=Most Free, 7=Least free)	2
Population using improved sanitation facilities (2015)	13.93%	Corruption perception index	40/100 (85/180)
Population with access to electricity (2017)	43.08%	CPIA gender equality rating (1=low to 6=high)	3.5

Political context

Benin benefits from low political violence and the stability of its democratic institutions. Since 1991, elections have been held on peaceful terms and sitting Presidents have vacated office following elections without incident. Businessman Patrice Talon won presidential elections held in March 2016¹⁰.

Freedom of expression is generally respected, although critical media outlets are occasionally suspended. Recently, judicial independence has been undermined by the appointment of the president's personal attorney as president of the Constitutional Court and the creation of a new anticorruption court, which has been accused of targeting Talon's political rivals.¹¹

Corruption remains a widespread problem in Benin (ranking 85th out of 185 countries on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index for 2018). The government's main anticorruption body, the National Anti-Corruption Authority (ANLC), has the ability to hear complaints, recommend measures, and pass cases to the courts, but it has no enforcement authority. Corrupt officials have rarely faced prosecution, contributing to a culture of impunity. Parliamentary immunity is often used to avoid corruption charges¹².

⁷ <https://borgenproject.org/poverty-rate-in-benin/>

⁸ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/benin/overview>

⁹ http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/BEN.pdf Accessed August 2019

¹⁰ World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Benin for the period FY2019 – FY2023. June 6, 2018

¹¹ <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2019/benin>. Accessed August 2019

¹² <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2019/benin>. Accessed August 2019

Nevertheless, the socio-political atmosphere remains largely favourable and conducive for reforms, but economic expectations remain high and there is pressure on the government to accelerate efforts to reduce high youth unemployment, address poor living standards, accelerate economic growth, and improve the quality of public services¹³.

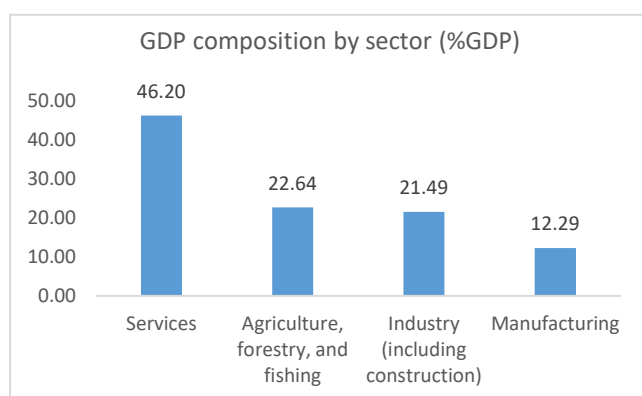
Last legislative elections were in April 2019¹⁴.

Economic Overview

Benin is a member of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). The currency is the CFA Franc. The port of Cotonou remains a transit corridor for hinterland countries such as Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger¹⁵.

Real GDP growth was an estimated 6.0% in 2018, up from 5.4% in 2017, and is projected to be 6.3% in 2019 and 6.8% in 2020. Economic growth is driven by a favorable performance in agriculture, especially cotton; industrial growth is projected to expand by 13.3% in 2019, owing to building and public works (growing by 25%) and the electricity and water sectors, projected to grow 8% as the 120 MW Maria- Gléta power plant begins production¹⁶. Thanks to higher agricultural exports, the current account deficit improved slightly, narrowing from 9.9% of GDP in 2017 to 8.9% of GDP in 2018¹⁷.

Benin's economy is heavily reliant on the informal re-export and transit trade with Nigeria (approximately 20% of GDP)¹⁸. Sharing a long border with its neighboring economic powerhouse, Benin's economy is highly focused on serving the Nigerian market—almost exclusively informally. High levels of trade protection in Nigeria have created profitable opportunities for Benin's informal traders who import goods for informal reexport to Nigeria across a porous border. Benin is also positioned as a transit corridor for the landlocked countries to its north; it represents the shortest and most competitive transport route to Niamey, and is a competitive option for goods destined for Ouagadougou, northern Nigeria and parts of Mali and Chad. The transport industry and the Port of Cotonou, referred to as the 'lungs of the economy', play a primary role in Benin's economic fabric¹⁹.



The agricultural sector accounts for approximately 23% of GDP and employs around 41% of the working population. The uptrend in cotton and food production, has not however translated into better yields and an increase in per capita income, because it stems primarily from an increase in land area under cultivation²⁰. Steady output growth has been accompanied by a deforestation rate at over twice the Sub-Saharan average²¹. Sustainability issues arise in both agriculture and forestry due to trends in resource

degradation, unclear tenure rights, and water stresses exacerbated by climate change²².

¹³ World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Benin for the period FY2019 – FY2023. June 6, 2018

¹⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/benin/overview>

¹⁵ <https://www.afdb.org/en/countries/west-africa/benin/benin-economic-outlook>

¹⁶ idem

¹⁷ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/benin/overview>

¹⁸ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/benin/overview>

¹⁹ World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Benin for the period FY2019 – FY2023. June 6, 2018

²⁰ African Development Bank Group Country Strategy Paper for Benin 2017-2021. September 2017.

²¹ World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Benin for the period FY2019 – FY2023. June 6, 2018

²² World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Benin for the period FY2019 – FY2023. June 6, 2018

The secondary sector (22% of GDP) remains underdeveloped, dominated by cotton-ginning plants, the agrifood industry, and printing and cement factories. It has, however, been improving slightly since 2012, propelled by construction, itself driven by the building and rehabilitation of various roads and the construction of hotels in Cotonou.

Infrastructure ²³			
Energy		Transportation	
Electrification total population	41.4%	Airports (with paved runway)	6 (1)
Electrification urban areas	70.8%	Railways (kms) (2014)	438
Electrification rural areas	18%	Roadways (unpaved) (kms)	16,000 (14,600)
Electricity generating capacity	321,000 kW	Waterways (kms)	150 (seasonal)
Pipelines (kms)	134 gas	Major seaports	Cotonou

Electricity is generated thermally by plants located at Bohicon, Parakou, Cotonou, and Porto-Novo. About half of Benin's demand for electricity is met by importing power from Ghana's Volta River Project at Akosombo. In 1988 operations commenced at the hydroelectric installation of the Mono River Dam, a joint venture between Benin and Togo on their common southern boundary²⁴.

Benin has a very small mining industry at present. It produces mainly industrial minerals, including clay, iron ore, limestone, marble, sand and gravel - on an artisanal scale. Gold is also produced in small quantities by artisanal miners. Cement is the only material produced on an industrial scale. Offshore oil was discovered in 1968 in the Sémé field near Cotonou and has been exploited since 1982²⁵.

The tertiary sector (52% of GDP reflects Benin's role as a transit and trade hub for landlocked countries, primarily Niger and Burkina Faso, and the large amount of informal reexport trade and commerce with Nigeria²⁶.

Despite some progress in the formal sector, Benin's weak business environment continues to deter domestic and international investors. In the World Bank's Doing Business indicators, Benin has ranked poorly (153 out of 190 countries in 2019). The informal economy represents 65 percent of GDP engaging 90 percent of the labor force. Services and agriculture, are both dominated by the informal sector.

Political stability and reforms to the business climate are expected to increase private investment. The successful implementation of the PAG will further strengthen medium-term economic growth. Government investment plans are also intended to accelerate, facilitate, and leverage related private sector investment, with many investments to be pursued on a PPP basis²⁷.

Priority areas of infrastructure for the development agenda are²⁸:

- Electricity. Only 29 percent of Benin's households have access to electricity. This low rate, which is below Sub-Saharan Africa's average electrification rate of 35 percent, is compounded by deficiencies in quality of service.
- Water and sanitation. Access to improved sanitation facilities remains low, particularly in rural areas. Another major issue related to water and sanitation is flooding, particularly in Cotonou and other coastal cities.
- Digital economy.

²³ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bn.html>. Accessed August 2019

²⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Benin/Economy> Accessed September 2019

²⁵ <https://www.giiresearch.com/annual/ros352727-africa-mining-report-benin.html> Accessed November 2019

²⁶ World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Benin for the period FY2019 – FY2023. June 6, 2018

²⁷ World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Benin for the period FY2019 – FY2023. June 6, 2018

²⁸ World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Benin for the period FY2019 – FY2023. June 6, 2018

- Transport infrastructure. Transport infrastructure and related services are key to Benin's goals of improved trade and competitiveness, especially on its main transport and transit corridors to the hinterland and neighboring countries. For a small economy, such as Benin, further integrating regionally and tapping into external demand is critical to ensuring robust and resilient growth.
- Infrastructure resilience. Future infrastructure design and investments will be made with increased awareness of future climate change needs, including both measures to increase resilience to future climate shocks (across the transport, energy, urban and water sectors) and avoiding lock in effects that would hinder future efforts to reduce carbon emissions²⁹.

Economic indicators 2018 ³⁰	
GDP (current US\$)	10358985583
GDP growth (annual %)	6.86
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP)	22.64
Industry (including construction), value added (% of GDP)	21.49
Services, value added (% of GDP)	46.20
Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	35.38
Imports of goods and services (% of GDP)	44.19
Gross capital formation (% of GDP)	25.77
Domestic credit provided by financial sector (% of GDP)	26.96
Tax revenue (% of GDP)	n.a.
Personal remittances, received (% of GDP)	3.55
Index of economic freedom (rank in the world)	55.3 (127)

Environment

Benin consists of five natural regions. The coastal region is low, flat, and sandy, backed by tidal marshes and lagoons. In the west the Grand-Popo Lagoon extends into neighbouring Togo, while in the east the Porto-Novo Lagoon provides a natural waterway to the port of Lagos, Nigeria. Only at Grand-Popo and at Cotonou do the lagoons have outlets to the sea. Apart from the Niger River, which, with its tributaries the Mékrou, Alibori, and Sota, drains the northeastern part of the country, the three principal rivers in Benin are the Mono, the Couffo, and the Ouémé. Two climatic zones may be distinguished—a southern and a northern. The southern zone has an equatorial type of climate with four seasons—two wet and two dry. In the northern climatic zone, there are only two seasons, one dry and one rainy.³¹

Geography and land-use data	
Land area (sq. km); surface (sq. km)	112,760
Terrestrial protected areas (% of total land area)	29.62
Forest area (% of land area, 2016)	37.79
Primary Forest (% forest land, 2016)	0.00
Planted Forest (% forest land, 2016)	0.54
Other naturally regenerated forest (% forest land, 2016)	99.46
Permanent cropland (% of land area) , 2016	4.43
Arable land (% of land area, 2016)	23.94
Agricultural land (% of land area, 2016)	33.26

²⁹ World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework for Benin for the period FY2019 – FY2023. June 6, 2018

³⁰ World Development Indicators, The World Bank. Data retrieved August 2019

³¹ <https://www.britannica.com/place/Benin#ref55063>

The original rain forest, which covered most of the southern part of the country, has now largely been cleared, except near the rivers. In its place, many oil palms and rônier palms have been planted and food crops are cultivated. The few stretches of tropical forest that remain in Benin, mostly in the southwest and central areas, contain mahogany, iroko, teak, samba, and other tropical hardwoods³². North of Abomey the vegetation is an intermixture of forest and savannah (grassy parkland), giving way farther north to savannah.

Wildlife and protected areas

The Pendjari National Park and the W Regional Park, located in northern Benin, are two of the most protected and biodiverse semiarid grassland ecosystems in West Africa.³³

In the extreme north is the “W” National Park, which extends into Burkina Faso and Niger. Its varied animal life includes elephants, leopards, lions, antelope, monkeys, wild pigs, crocodiles, and buffalo. There are many species of snakes, including pythons and puff adders. Birds include guinea fowl, wild duck, and partridge, as well as many tropical species. The Pendjari National Park borders on Burkina Faso.³⁴

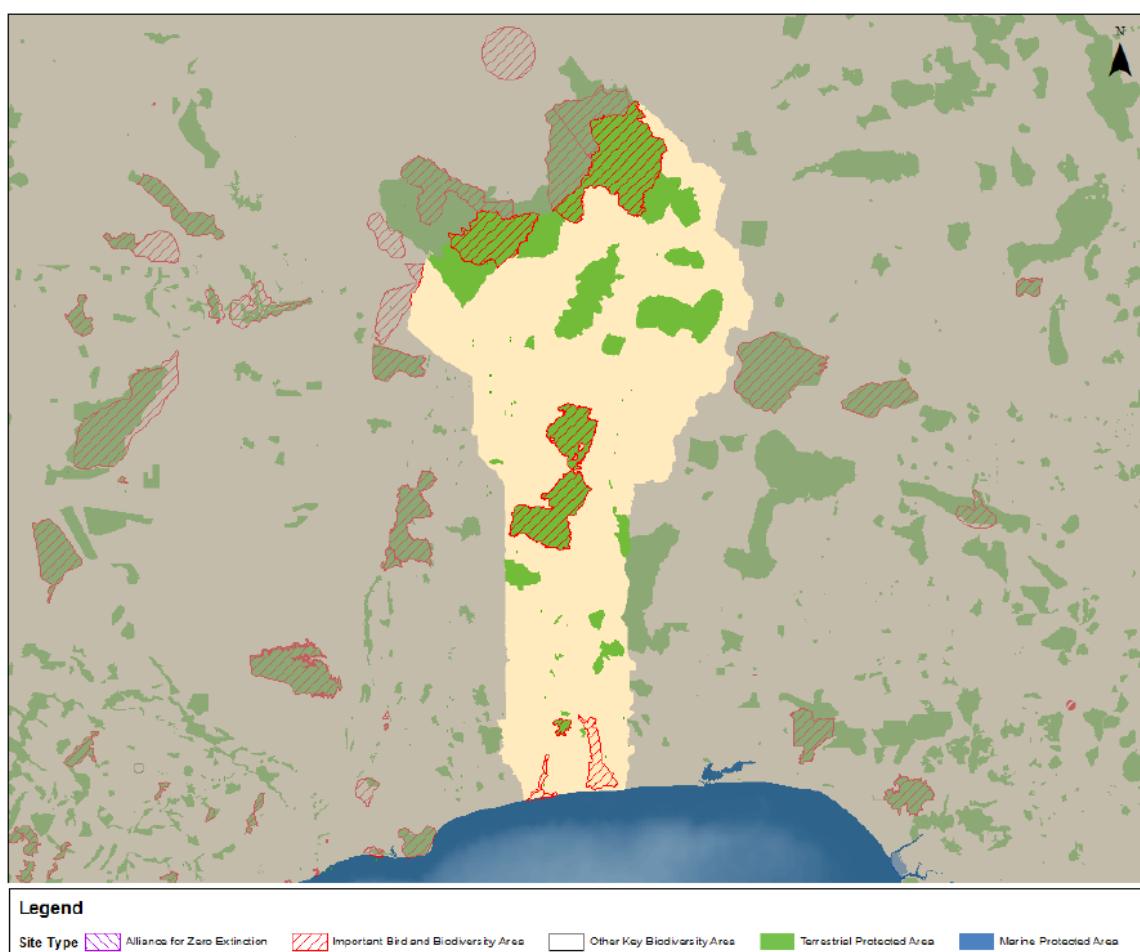
Protected Areas	
Designation	Number
Classified Forest	37
National Park	2
Other Area	3
Hunting Zone	3
Reforestation Area	7
Ramsar Site	4
UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserve	2
World Heritage Site	1
Coverage: (terrestrial): 29.60%	Total: 59
Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)	6

³² <https://www.britannica.com/place/Benin/Economy> Accessed September 2019

³³ <https://eros.usgs.gov/westafrica/country/republic-benin>

³⁴ Encyclopaedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Benin> accessed September , 2019

Map showing the overlap between Key Biodiversity Areas and Protected Areas.



Main pressures and drivers of biodiversity loss

The diversity of fauna and flora is more concentrated in protected areas but their conservation is still threatened. The threats include the expansion of wildland fires, extensive livestock rearing, over-extraction of timber stands, transhumance characterized by overgrazing, pesticide application, intensification of poaching activities, and agricultural expansion. To these are added climate change and an inappropriate institutional and regulatory framework.³⁵ The main anthropogenic pressures that continue to affect biodiversity in Benin are habitat loss, unsustainable use, overexploitation of resources and pollution.

According to FAO (2006), Benin no longer has natural primary forests that are not degraded. The Beninese fauna includes 188 species of mammals, among which there are 10 species of globally threatened primates. Elsewhere, watercourses are filling up and shrinking wetlands, leading to more recurring and intense flooding phenomena, while coastal erosion, due to sea saline incursion into water bodies and farmland constitutes a heavy loss to the economy. Desertification in the northern part is another major threat to the livelihoods of populations and the maintenance of the high biological diversity of the reserves of an already fragile ecosystem in the face of strong human pressure from populations lacking alternatives.³⁶

³⁵ Benin NBSAP <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/bj/bj-nbsap-v2-fr.pdf>

³⁶ https://knowledge.unccd.int/sites/default/files/ldn_targets/Benin%20LDN%20Country%20Commitments.pdf

In the area of the environment and climate change, the natural environment of Benin is deteriorating, owing to deforestation, soil degradation and accelerated erosion of the coastal fringe of the Gulf of Guinea. The expected climate change might increase wood cutting and deforestation. Benin's coastal and marine environment (125 km of coastline) is exposed to erosion and/or flooding causing significant damage³⁷.

Data provided by the IBAT Country Profile for Benin identifies the global threats to species occurring in the country. The major threats relate to biological resource use, pollution, agriculture, followed by residential & commercial development, climate change, natural systems modifications invasive species and diseases, and roads and railroads.

Direct threats	Number of species impacted
Biological resource use	96
Fishing & Harvesting Aquatic Resources	46
Hunting & Collecting Terrestrial Animals	24
Logging & Wood Harvesting	26
Agriculture & aquaculture	60
Crops planted for food, fibre, fuel, or other uses	36
Livestock Farming & Ranching	17
Wood and pulp plantations	7
Pollution	48
Agricultural & Forestry Effluents	23
Domestic & Urban Waste Water	10
Industrial & Military Effluents	15
Residential & Commercial Development	39
Housing & Urban Areas	27
Commercial & Industrial Areas	12
Human Intrusions & Disturbance	28
Recreational Activities	12
War, Civil Unrest & Military Exercises	8
Work and other activities	8
Climate Change & Severe Weather	10
Habitat Shifting & Alteration	10
Temperature Extremes	8
Dams & Water Management/Use	12
Invasive & Other Problematic Species, Genes & Diseases	11
Transportation & Service Corridors (roads & railroads)	9

Species with extinction risk assessments in Senegal published on the IUCN Red List		
Taxonomic group	Number assessed	Known threatened species
Amphibians	37	0
Birds	548	10
Fishes	857	39
Mammals	168	14
Reptiles	34	7
Arachnids	6	0

³⁷ African Development Bank Group Country Strategy Paper for Benin 2017-2021. September 2017.

Corals	8	0
Crustaceans	21	0
Insects	141	1
Molluscs	70	2
Other invertebrates	2	0
Ferns	5	0
Flowering plants	237	18
Gymnosperms	1	1
Total	2135	92
Total endemic species assessed/threatened	4	0

National legal environmental framework

In 2012, Benin adopted its new Forest Policy to 2025 which has been aligned with other national development strategies. Also, a law was adopted in 2011 to deal with the collection and exploitation of forest and fauna resources however, in reality, there is a significant lack of effective enforcement of this legislation. Following reforms in 2003 to decentralize the management of natural resources, through shared responsibilities between the State and the communes, an increase in the level of participation of civil society, NGOs, farmers' organizations and local authorities has occurred³⁸.

Out of 189 NBSAPs, only 34 have been adopted as “whole-of-government” instruments – Benin was the only African country in this category. An approval by the highest political body means that the NBSAP has been accepted as a national level undertaking³⁹.

International legal framework

Benin is party of the following conventions of which the following have impacts on biodiversity (non-exhaustive):

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
- Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)
- Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- Montreal Protocol (Ozone Layer Protection)
- Ramsar (Wetlands)
- World Heritage Convention (WHC)
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (IWC)
- International Tropical Timber Agreement

National Commitments in Rio Conventions

In fulfilling its international obligations in these agreements, the country has submitted a number of national targets and/or plans to implement them.

Convention on Biological Diversity – NBSAP

³⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/default.shtml?country=bj#facts>

³⁹ UNEP/CBD/COP/13/8/Add.1/Rev.1

Benin's *Stratégie et Plan d'Action pour la Biodiversité 2011-2020* builds on the accomplishments of the first NBSAP (2002), such as the publication of the Atlas on West African Biodiversity (2010), covering Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, the National Red List of Threatened Species (2011) and the National Forest Inventory (2007), while addressing its shortcomings. Seven principles have been adopted to guide implementation that call for: membership of all stakeholders in support of a common vision of biodiversity; a real commitment and involvement of all stakeholders (public institutions, decentralized local communities, private entities, civil society, NGOs, among others) in a dynamic and synergistic planning process; systematic consideration of the NBSAP as a tool for mainstreaming biodiversity in national and local development programs; consistency between the NBSAP and national and sectoral strategies; identification of national and regional synergies among the CBD, biodiversity-related conventions and other MEAs; promotion of public-private partnerships; and the consideration of the Ecosystem Approach in implementation. The Strategy focuses on five key areas: information, education, communication and awareness-raising of all stakeholders to build a commitment to action; conservation of ecosystem resources and the strengthening of biodiversity potential; biodiversity planning, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management and capacity-building; strengthening the contribution that biodiversity can make to the well-being of the population and to generating revenue; and strengthening the policy, institutional, legislative, regulatory and financial frameworks. Under these five key areas, eight strategic goals and twenty strategic targets have been formulated, the latter of which are respectively linked to expected outcomes, actions, principal indicators, implementation period, responsible actors, partners and estimated costs. As a Party to the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, Benin is currently carrying out activities to fulfil its obligations under the Protocol, including raising awareness of the Protocol and developing domestic legislation for its implementation⁴⁰.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - NDC⁴¹

Benin submitted its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in October 2017. The sectors listed in the mitigation measures are energy, agriculture and LULUCF. Benin's contribution is based on existing measures contained in strategies, programs and projects likely to contribute to GHG emissions reduction and also based on national resources (unconditional contribution) as well as on the support of the international community (conditional contribution). The unconditional contribution includes public funds and private investments.

Selected mitigation measures by sector		
Sector	Measures/targets	Emission reduction
Agriculture	Implementing improved farming techniques on a cultivated area of 500,000 ha/year	Improving the technical guidance targeting the limitation of methane fermentation and nitrous oxide emanations in farming systems would make it possible to avoid the cumulative emissions of these gases to a total value of about 26.14 Mt CO ₂ eq in the BAU scenario, that is a reduction of 31.1 % by the year 2030
	Developing 96,500 ha of farmlands and building 180 water retaining dams	
	Developing and irrigating 52,000 ha of rice-growing area with water control	
Energy	Construction at Maria Gléta of thermal biofuel power plants (fuel, natural gas)	The implementation of these measures will contribute to reduce the cumulative GHG emissions in this sector in the BAU scenario by 23,35 Mt CO ₂ eq over 2021 to 2030 period, that is 11,51 %
	Promoting low wood-energy Consuming technologies	
	Construction of a third hydroelectric power plant	
	Increasing households' access to electric lighting in place of kerosene lighting	
LULUCF	Protecting existing natural and planted forests to reduce deforestation rate down to 35,000 ha/year instead of 60,000 ha/year	(i) Limiting deforestation: the cumulative avoided emissions over 2021-2030 period are estimated at 110 Mt CO ₂ eq

⁴⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/about/latest/default.shtml#bj>

⁴¹ Benin First NDC

	Implementing a reforestation plan aiming at developing 15, 000 ha of planted forests annually.	(ii) Carbon sequestration: 32 Mt CO ₂ eq over 2021-2030 period, by limiting deforestation (23,9 Mt CO ₂ eq) and developing planted forests (8,1 Mt CO ₂ eq)
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The NDC also includes targets for climate change adaptation for agriculture, water resources, forestry, and the shoreline.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification – LDN target⁴²

Benin's priority is to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030 through the restoration of at least 50% (1.25 million ha) of land degraded during the reference period 2000-2010, and limit to 5% the loss of non-degraded lands (forests and savannahs), in order to preserve terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems with a 12% net improvement in the vegetation cover.

More specifically, it commits itself to reinforce current measures and efforts, by 2030:

- reduce from 21% (1,460,000 ha) to 5% (160,640 ha) the conversion of natural forests and savannahs to other forms of land use, namely farmland and dwellings;
- increase by 5% (155,000 ha) the area of forests through reforestation and the establishment of new plantations;
- halve (i.e. about 350 000 ha) the area of forests with a net productivity decline;
- increase productivity on all agricultural lands that are declining in productivity (631,400 ha) and those on which productivity remained weakly stable (1,8 million ha) during the period 2000-2010;
- maintain wetlands as a whole by stopping conversion to other forms of use.

⁴²<https://knowledge.unccd.int/home/country-information/countries-having-set-voluntary-ldn-targets/benin> Accessed August 2019