



CONCEPT NOTE

West African Community of Practice on Gender and the Green Economy

2026 Virtual Dialogue Series

Building a Gender-Responsive Green Transition Pre-COP31: Localising the Belém Gender Action Plan (GAP) in West Africa

17 September 2026, 10h00-12h00 GMT

[Zoom link](#)

1. Context

Climate action and the green transition present both risks and opportunities for women and girls in West Africa. To fully realize these opportunities and ensure countries across the region engage in just and inclusive transitions, it is essential that governments have the capacities, tools, and resources to design, implement, and finance inclusive and gender-responsive programmes and policy reforms that recognize and promote the leadership role of women and girls in both climate action and green entrepreneurship.

To respond to this need, in 2025, the ECOWAS Gender Development Centre (EGDC) and UN Women launched the West African Community of Practice on Gender and the Green Economy, a regional platform for dialogue, capacity building, and the exchange of good practices. In this context, the EGDC and UN Women, with support from technical and financial partners, are organizing a Virtual Dialogue Series to strengthen capacities and facilitate knowledge sharing and good practices across Member States, thereby accelerating gender-responsive climate action and the green transition in West Africa.

As part of its work on gender and the green economy, the ECOWAS Commission, through the EGDC and with the support of UN Women, is developing its Regional Flagship Programme ‘Gender-Responsive Climate Action and Green Economy in West Africa’, which aims to support five programme countries in advancing concrete climate action, with a strong emphasis on resilience and adaptation, and promoting inclusive and sustainable green growth, while also helping them meet their international commitments at the nexus between gender equality, women’s empowerment, climate change, and sustainable development. This includes commitments under the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP) adopted at COP30, known as the Belém Gender Action Plan, which serves as a key lever to accelerate gender equality and women’s empowerment, placing women at the centre of climate action through increased participation, improved sex-disaggregated data, and better access to finance and technology.



As the Community of Practice convenes its 3rd Virtual Dialogue on 17 September 2026, countries in West Africa are either finalizing the formulation of their new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) or already starting implementation and are taking the first steps in the implementation of the Belém GAP. This dialogue will therefore serve as a space for peer learning and exchange to strengthen capacities for financing a gender-responsive transition, while also acting as a validation platform for the ECOWAS Regional Programme ‘Gender-Responsive Climate Action and Green Economy in West Africa’ under preparation. It will allow participants to provide concrete technical and strategic inputs to strengthen the programme design, while advancing the localisation and acceleration of the Belém GAP in the region.

2. Objectives

- Familiarize participants with the Belém Gender Action Plan (GAP), discuss its implications for advancing gender-responsive climate action in West Africa, and identify quick wins and good practices to kick-start and accelerate its implementation in the region.
- Support capacity building, peer learning and exchange of good practices among members of the Community of Practice to accelerate inclusive and gender-responsive climate action in West Africa.

3. Expected results

- Participants are familiarized with the Belém Gender Action Plan and gain a clearer understanding of its implications for advancing gender-responsive climate action in the West Africa region.
- Members of the Community of Practice strengthen their capacities on gender-responsive climate action, gaining clearer understanding of challenges, opportunities, and practical recommendations — including concrete pathways to support financing for the implementation of the Belém GAP, the NDC 3.0, and women’s green entrepreneurship.
- The Community of Practice is strengthened and expanded with new members among technical and financial partners, CSOs, government and regional institutions working on different aspect of climate action in West Africa.

4. Participants

- Members of the ECOWAS Community of Practice on Gender and the Green Economy,
- Implementing agencies of the ECOWAS Regional Programme ‘Gender-Responsive Climate Action and Green Economy in West Africa’
- Technical and development partners



5. Format and Logistics

- **Date:** 17 September 2026, 10h00 to 12h00 GMT
- **Format:** Online via Zoom; Register here:
https://unwomen.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gD7v2govQ66TmVLARbQDpQ#/registration
- **Languages:** French and English, with simultaneous interpretation

6. Agenda

Time (GMT)	17 th of September, 10h00 -12h00 GMT
10:00 – 10:15	Opening remarks and introduction • EGDC • UN Women WCARO • Donor representatives
10:15 – 10:25	Belém Gender Action Plan: From Global Commitments to Regional Action <i>Venge Nyirongo, Deputy Chief of Economic Empowerment & Policy Advisor, Sustainable Development and Policy Specialist UN Women</i>
10:25 – 10:50	Challenges and Opportunities for Gender Responsive Climate Action in West Africa: What does Research Tell us? <i>WASCAL (TBC)</i>
10:50 – 11:25	Pathways to accelerate the implementation of the Belém GAP in West Africa: - Presentation of the ECOWAS Regional Agency for Food and Agriculture (ARAA) - Presentation from the National Focal Point for Gender and Climate Change of Liberia
11:25 – 11:40	Interactive session: Regional Programme on Gender-Responsive Climate Action and Green Economies in West Africa (Mentimeter) <i>All participants, facilitated by UN Women WCARO</i>
11:40 – 11:55	Open Exchange: Good Practices and Future Capacity Building Needs <i>Facilitated by UN Women WCARO (TBC)</i>
11:55 – 12:00	Key note address and closing remarks <i>ECOWAS Director for the Department of Environment</i>