



## Online support to building capacity for the land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector of the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory

**Country:** Guinea  
**Year:** 2021  
**Approach:** Virtual  
training  
**Focus area:**  
Reporting in the  
LULUCF sector

### Summary

Guinea is preparing its third National Communication (NC) and first Biennial Update Report (BUR). For the first time ever, the production of the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (NGHGI) is being led directly by staff at ministries and other public bodies. However, the lack of data and insufficient technical preparation severely limit the capacity to deliver a high-quality NGHGI. Guinea, through the FAO Global capacity-building towards enhanced transparency in the AFOLU sector (CBIT-AFOLU) project, recently benefitted from tailored virtual support to overcome these bottlenecks. The results of this process, which can help other Francophone countries in similar conditions meet the UNFCCC requirements under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), are presented in this case study.



FAO AND THE ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY FRAMEWORK

### Background

Guinea is a humid West African tropical country rich in rivers and water bodies, with mangrove and other forests (dry, humid, sometimes primary) as well as grassy savannas. The rapidly growing population of twelve million depends heavily on agriculture and forests and is therefore very sensitive to the negative effects of climate change. According to its second NC, the agriculture sector accounted for 48 percent of total GHG emissions, land use change and forestry for 39 percent and energy for 13 percent in 2000.

The Ministry of Environment of Guinea (*Direction Nationale Changement Climatique*) has started preparing its third NC and first BUR. It also coordinates the inventory system with sectoral teams composed of staff from other ministries and public bodies. This is a welcome change compared to previous NCs which were produced by consultants.

A lack of national data and relevant information from previous reports, as well as insufficient technical preparation, are limiting factors for delivering a high-quality and complete NGHGI. This is especially true for the LULUCF sector which is one of the most challenging sectors of the inventory.

To address these challenges, Guinea has taken advantage of tailored assistance in French from the FAO CBIT-AFOLU project team. The training was delivered virtually because of the pandemic.

### Main challenges

- ▶ **Institutional issues:** The NGHGI system has no formal legal structure and relies on Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs).
- ▶ **Technical capacity:** Technical capacity in using the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methods to deliver the NGHGI is insufficient despite the participation of Guinea in capacity building events such as those of the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement (PATPA). This may be due to the novelty of public servants being called up to the task of preparing the NGHGI essentially from scratch; language barriers; and the limited time frame for completing the work.
- ▶ **Data:** Data gathering needs to be strengthened especially for the LULUCF sector. The last National Forest Inventory dates back to 1985. No national data are available on land cover and land use. The REDD+ process is still embryonic.

### Process

FAO's CBIT-AFOLU team organized weekly calls with Guinea's AFOLU inventory team between April and June 2021. Assistance was delivered online due to the ongoing pandemic and was entirely customized based on participants' specific requests and needs.

This process brought together up to about eight participants from the *Direction nationale de changement climatique, the Direction de l'élevage, and the Agence nationale de la statistique agricole (ANASA)*, to:

- ▶ define the objectives, scope and approaches for NGHGI preparation;
- ▶ review specific technical elements of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for the LULUCF sector;
- ▶ demonstrate the use of available resources for NGHGI production in the LULUCF sector, including the FAO e-learning course "The national greenhouse gas inventory for land use", the Collect Earth software and the IPCC Inventory software. These were used to support the application of the IPCC 2006 methodologies for LULUCF.

## Outcome and success factors

The customized training allowed the national team to meet the NGHGI coordinator's deadline for completing the NGHGI, despite the challenges illustrated above. The pandemic compelled FAO to use distance training modalities, which nevertheless were efficient thanks to several important factors:

- ▶ **The training did not follow a rigid or pre-defined program.** It was delivered based on the actual needs of the Guinea AFOLU team, which were defined together with FAO at the beginning of the activity.
- ▶ **The training was delivered in French and was fully customized to the country.** This, together with the use of the resources mentioned above, allowed the Guinea AFOLU team to fill knowledge gaps quickly.
- ▶ **Specific hands-on exercises** aimed at compiling the inventory were presented during each call and their completion assigned for the next call. This allowed for **continuous feedback on possible doubts and results.**
- ▶ The training helped the country team overcome the lack of national data by **identifying appropriate international datasets**, including the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and land cover data from FAOSTAT.

- ▶ **Detailed minutes after each call** summarized the themes addressed and complemented them with additional information and resources.

The training revealed the need for additional support in data gathering and archiving. These requests can benefit from parallel efforts the FAO team is deploying in other countries.

## Feedback from the trainees

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank FAO and the CBIT AFOLU project for the training, so that Guinea could be one of the countries to benefit from the initiative that will help us to improve our National Inventory System and Land Use chapter of the NGHGI.*

**M. Karifa Kourouma, Guinea CBIT AFOLU focal point**, Direction National Changement Climatique (Ministry of Environment)

*The training was really insightful and valuable for me. I am looking forward to using the skills I acquired in my daily work and contribute to the LULUCF sector of the NGHGI.*

**M. Saïdou Doumbouya, NGHGI- AFOLU team leader**

## Conclusion

Distance training can be very effective when a combination of theoretical, hands-on and on-line resources are tailored to the country's needs and expectations. This includes providing guidance and resources in the appropriate language (French in this case). As always, the country team's commitment and close collaboration are essential.

## RESOURCES

- ▶ **National greenhouse gas inventory for land use e-learning course**  
<https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=650>
- ▶ **Collect Earth software**  
<http://www.openforis.org/tools/collect-earth/>
- ▶ **IPCC Inventory software**  
<https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/software/index.html>
- ▶ **FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)**  
<https://fra-data.fao.org/>

- ▶ **Land cover data from FAOSTAT**  
<https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/LC>

## CONTACTS

ETF@fao.org  
[www.fao.org/climate-change/our-work/what-we-do/transparency/](http://www.fao.org/climate-change/our-work/what-we-do/transparency/)



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET