



# Metrics for Integrated Systems and Contexts: Cote d'Ivoire Climate Vulnerability Reduction Credit feasibility and pilot design



## In Brief

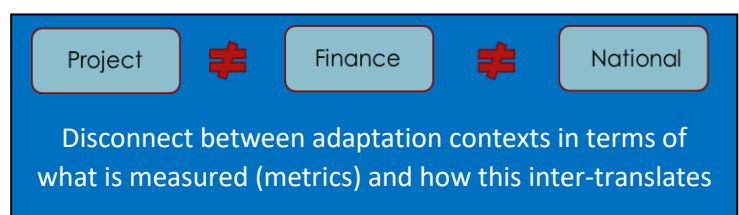
- The Higher Ground Foundation is working with the government of Cote d'Ivoire to explore the feasibility of using the climate Vulnerability Reduction Credit (VRC) to support improved adaptation project, finance and national system management. This includes defining:
  - A Pilot Project to develop and test adaptation methodologies;
  - A VRC Fund to enable the investment in adaptation projects, and;
  - Using VRCs in a National Adaptation Management System to enable Cote d'Ivoire to direct Fund and Pilot activities and aggregate project-level adaptation results to the national level and help the country meet its goals and reporting obligations under the UNFCCC framework.
- As an initial consultation, we will be present at COP26 in November.

## Background and Challenge

Côte D'Ivoire is already experiencing significant climate change effects, which will continue to intensify on an accelerated timeframe. The IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report projects that West Africa will see increases in average temperatures within a range of 3 to 6 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. Other projections indicate increases in extreme precipitation by as much as 60% and extended dry periods impinging on the growing season. These temperature and rainfall pattern changes will have a potentially serious effect on the country's agriculture—in particular, the valuable cocoa crop—and on human health and well-being through reduced crop sales and nutrition, increased disease vectors, reduced water quality, and damage to infrastructure from worsening flooding, coastal erosion and winds.

The Republic of Côte D'Ivoire is a signatory to the Paris Agreement and has partnered with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in an effort to “strengthen the Government’s capacity to integrate climate change adaptation into national and sectoral planning processes” through its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) framework.

However, there is a lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities on adaptation, a lack of technical capacity, insufficient data for risk-informed planning, and a lack of a monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) system and strategy for financial motivation as barriers to robust implementation of its national adaptation goals.



To help address these challenges, the country's environment ministry is investigating the applicability of a quantifiable metric of reduced vulnerability to climate change; specifically, the [Vulnerability Reduction Credit \(VRC\)](#), a quantified and fungible metric of climate adaptation developed by the Higher Ground Foundation. Using the VRC mechanism, verified project vulnerability reduction results generate credits representing an adaptation project's avoided impact costs, adjusted for local income levels. VRCs generated by projects

reflect quantified and monitored vulnerability reduction efforts and can be sold on to third parties to fund these efforts or used to evaluate and compare technologies and processes in terms of their effectiveness.

## Objectives

The objective of this project is to carry out an initial analysis and feasibility assessment that will help to guide the Ministre de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable, Côte D'Ivoire (MINEDD) and partners in the successful development of VRC projects and a registry that will enable the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire to more effectively identify, support, and implement adaptations to climate change in accordance with its NAP under the 2015 Paris Agreement and the framework that has been developed with the GCF.



This study will develop preliminary designs and recommendations for implementing three key projects contributory to meeting the above goals:

**Pilot Project:** We will carry out a prefeasibility study for a pilot VRC climate adaptation project. The practices and financial instruments needed by communities in RCI and elsewhere to adapt to specific vulnerabilities to climate change will be defined. Based on these requirements, we will work together with MINEDD to identify one or more projects in the Ivory Coast as feasible pilots to generate VRCs through vulnerability reduction.

**VRC Fund:** We will define the scope of a certification instrument-based fund for leveraging investment in adaptation projects and the potential trading of adaptation credits. The fund is to be managed within the country of Côte D'Ivoire by and/or on behalf of the Government as part of its development and implementation of the country's National Adaptation Plan and will be designed as a springboard for deploying GCF and other resources to support results-based adaptation projects by entering into agreements to purchase VRCs.

**Management System:** We will scope a National Adaptation Management System for more effectively identifying, supporting, and implementing climate adaptations in Ivory Coast. In addition to providing a registry for VRC issuance and tracking through which all VRCs produced by adaptation projects in RCI would be uniquely and transparently identified and tracked, the Management System will serve as a platform for managing, financing, and growing the VRC fund and provide linkage to external national and international finance and reporting systems.

## Conference of Parties 26 Consultation

To promote and further this early-stage effort, we will be at the COP 26 during the second week, from 7 to 11 November. We plan to meet with potential stakeholders and partners to obtain their input and guidance on what they would be interested in seeing brought into play in a future Adaptation Credit and National Management framework as well as in ongoing VRC-generating vulnerability reduction project activities.

If you are interested in meeting during or before or after the COP or would simply like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact our delegation:

- Karl Schultz, HGF Executive Chair and Chief of Party;  
karl@thehighergroundfoundation.org; phone/Whatsapp: +44 078432 80571
- Linus Adler, HGF Technical Manager and Deputy Chief of Party;  
linus@thehighergroundfoundation.org; phone/Whatsapp: +44 07928 759874

Project slides can be downloaded at: [www.thehighergroundfoundation.org](http://www.thehighergroundfoundation.org)



scan for project materials