Climate Action Plan

Cocody

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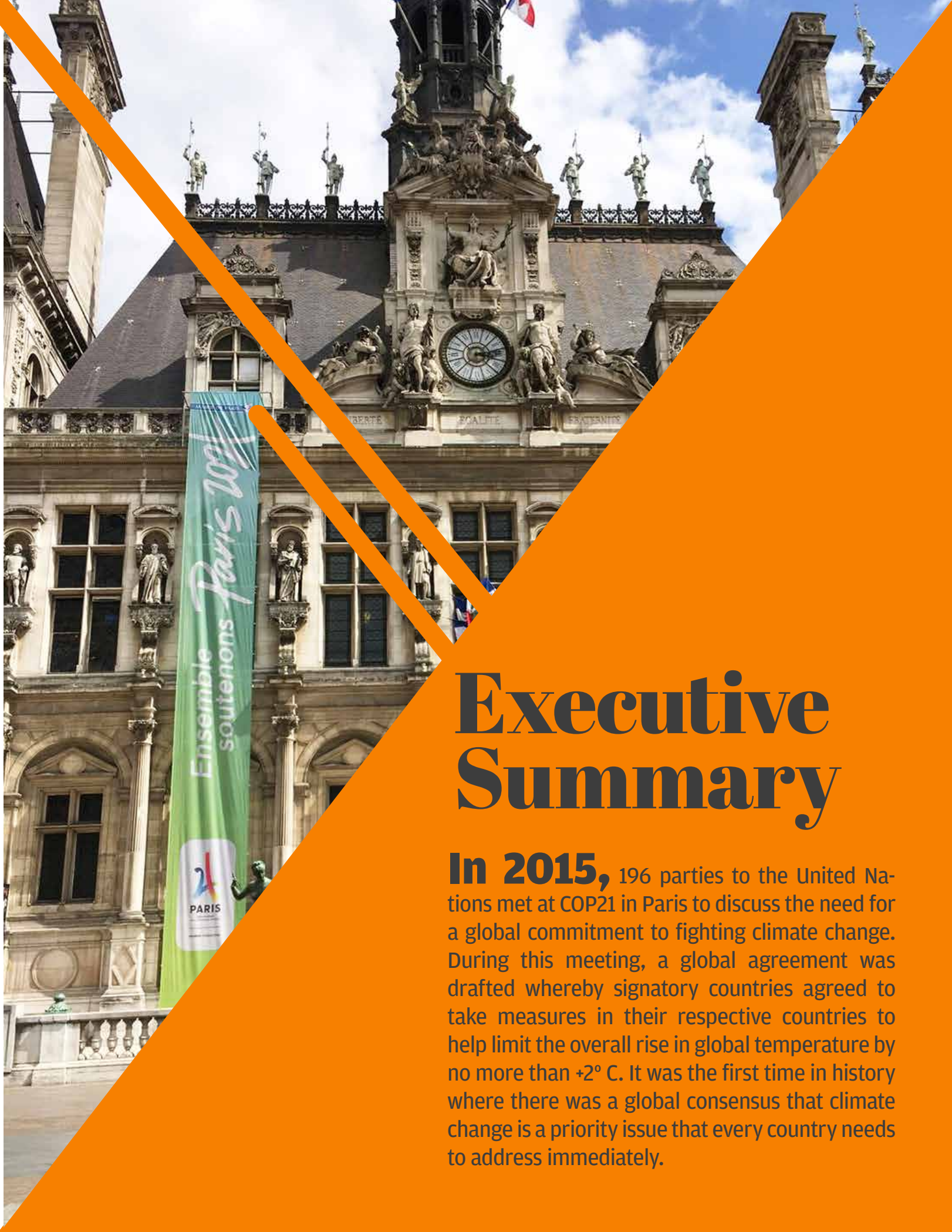


Executive Summary

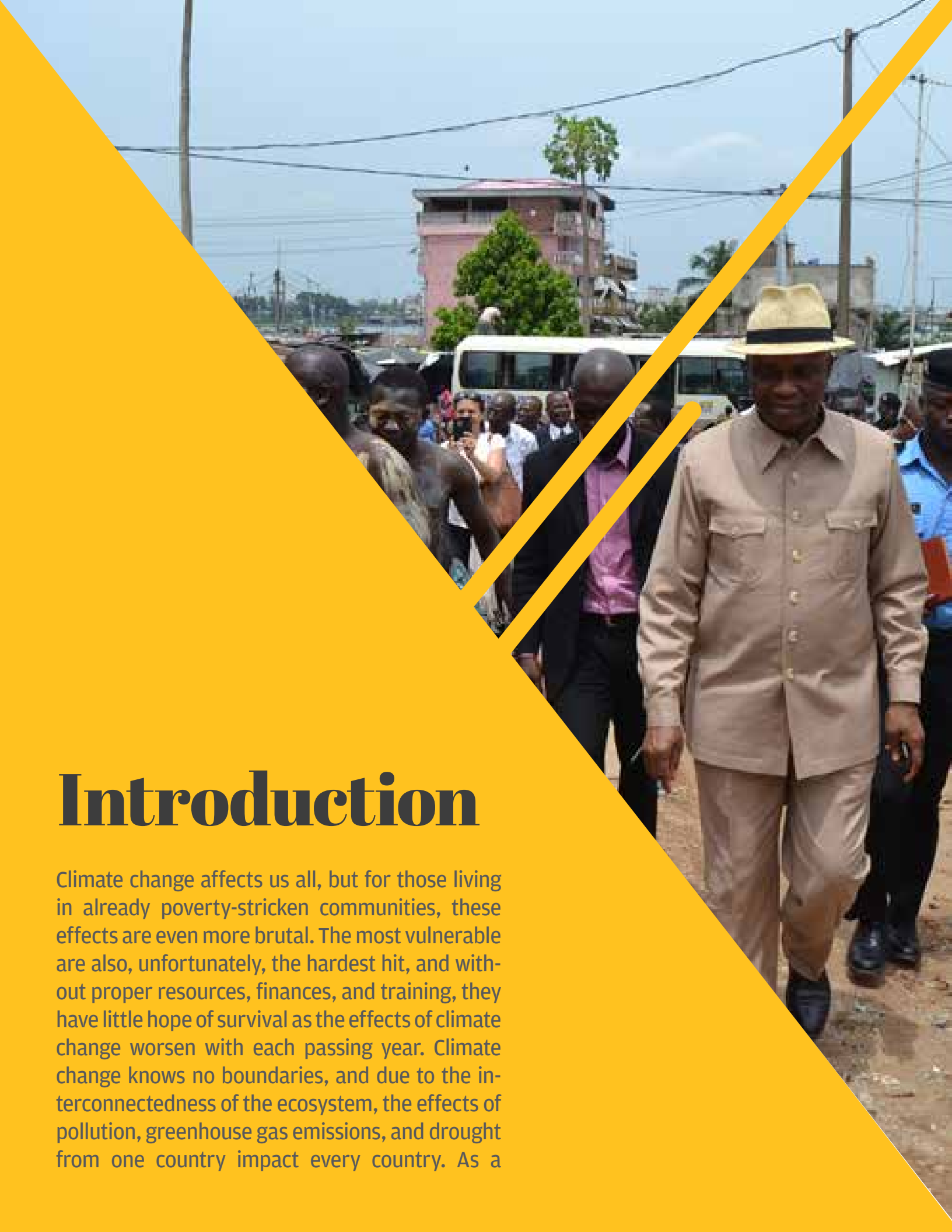
In 2015, 196 parties to the United Nations met at COP21 in Paris to discuss the need for a global commitment to fighting climate change. During this meeting, a global agreement was drafted whereby signatory countries agreed to take measures in their respective countries to help limit the overall rise in global temperature by no more than +2° C. It was the first time in history where there was a global consensus that climate change is a priority issue that every country needs to address immediately.

In support of this initiative, the country of Cote d'Ivoire, in partnership with Earth Rights Institute (ERI), made a further commitment to the cause. In efforts to reduce carbon emissions by 70% by 2030, they will facilitate the creation of a prototype Eco-city in the Municipality of Cocody, one of the districts in the country's capital city, Abidjan. The purpose of creating this model city, known as "Cocody Green City, Carbon Well of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, and Africa," is to have a baseline from which to roll out eco-initiatives in the other 13 municipalities of Abidjan, and then to other regions of the Cote d'Ivoire and beyond.

Why an Eco-city? The role of the Eco-city is to create a carbon-negative, stable and sustainable environment and instill an eco-conscious mindset in the communities hardest hit by climate change. These communities are often extremely poor and have the least resources and by providing the necessary training, education, and opportunities, we can effectively create a thriving community of educated and eco-conscious individuals committed to living sustainably and peacefully.

The Eco-city plan will use a multi-faceted approach that implements 23 measures we have identified to effectively combat the many faces of climate change, including pollution, desertification and drought, poverty, terrorism, and lack of education, among others. This action-oriented plan, once completed, will achieve our goals of reducing carbon emissions while creating a safe, stable, and sustainable community committed to living an eco-friendly, peaceful lifestyle in harmony with the environment.

The Community of Cocody in the District of Abidjan



Introduction

Climate change affects us all, but for those living in already poverty-stricken communities, these effects are even more brutal. The most vulnerable are also, unfortunately, the hardest hit, and without proper resources, finances, and training, they have little hope of survival as the effects of climate change worsen with each passing year. Climate change knows no boundaries, and due to the interconnectedness of the ecosystem, the effects of pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and drought from one country impact every country. As a

global society, it is therefore necessary for all of us to address climate change and implement ways to mitigate the impacts of global warming activities. As a majority of climate-changing emissions come from cities, it is in these cities where we plan to begin. Cities are in a unique position to lead the reduction of emissions and implement policies and programs that help residents and businesses minimize emissions and maximize sustainable choices.

Climate change initiatives in Africa are few and far between for numerous reasons. Most of the African countries that submitted plans in Paris rely on partial or complete international funding. As climate finance has been slow, it is becoming increasingly unrealistic for Africa to deliver their climate plans. Many of their big cities are plagued with poverty, bad infrastructure, overpopulation, conflict and dysfunctional governance. These challenges become nearly insurmountable as they try to implement and build from scratch a stable green energy system that will further their capacity to achieve the goals of lowering their carbon output. However, the Paris Agreement does provide an opportunity to accelerate socioeconomic growth and develop policy framework and operational paths to sustainable development if the international community properly supports them.

Knowing this, we at ERI have been actively working to mitigate the effects of climate change through our many programs worldwide. Our mission has been to support and fund innovative initiatives at the community level that are

transforming and transitioning local communities, strengthening sustainability and locally generating economic growth and building a movement for climate action. With the "Cocody Green City" project, we plan to assist the city of Cocody in greening not just one, but all of the municipalities throughout Abidjan, and later throughout Cote d'Ivoire and other countries in Africa. We already have a commitment from the Mayor of Cocody (Mr. N'GOAN AKA KACOU Mathias) as well as the ministries in Cote d'Ivoire to begin to make "Cocody Green City" a reality and a leading example. Now we need the requisite funding to continue and expand the work that we've started.

Taking on climate change is not without its challenges, but the opportunities and wide spread benefits far outweigh them. Measures for efficient and sustainable energy use will reduce greenhouse gas emissions while positively impacting local businesses and infrastructure, as well as residents. By creating local jobs in renewable energy and safety, we will also combat widespread poverty in the region. Reforestation measures will not only increase carbon sequestration, they will beautify city streets and parks, as well as provide clean air and water.

Our goals:

Through the creation of this Eco-city, we hope to achieve the following results:

1. Decrease carbon output by at least 70% by 2030 and thereby assist Cote d'Ivoire in their pledge to combat climate change.
2. Restore the habitat around the lagoon of Cocody (planting 2 million mangrove trees) and planting 2 million trees and flowers on streets and in municipal parks throughout the city.
3. Create 500,000 new jobs 100,000 permanent direct green jobs and 400,000 indirect jobs.
4. Increase community commitment to and adoption of sustainable living.

The "Cocody Green City" project will serve as a prototype upon which we can model other cities and communities, contributing to the overall reduction of carbon output, the increase in green energy access, and heightened community involvement, while combatting terrorism and poverty and and helping other communities in Cote d'Ivoire and Africa reach the goals set forth in the Paris Accord.

The Municipal Council of Cocody is committed to helping the national government achieve its ambitious goal of increasing renewable energy by 16% in its energy mix and reducing its green-

Context:
The Municipality of Cocody

house gas emissions by 30% by 2030. Cocody intends to serve as a model in energy conservation and has adopted an ambitious plan called "Cocody Green City, Carbon Well of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, and Africa." The plan aims at reducing greenhouse gas emissions of the municipality by 90% by 2030, creating 100,000 permanent direct green jobs and 400,000 indirect jobs. The plan is expected to avoid an emission of 92.16 billion teqCO_2 per year with a sequestration potential of 120,446 teqCO_2 per year.

The municipality of Cocody is located in the north of the city of Abidjan, extending on 132 square kilometers with a population of 800,000 inhabitants of which 54% are women. The youth represents 56% of the population, 50% of which are students. It is a highly desirable residential municipality where the Head of State resides, as well as a majority of the country's decision makers and businessmen. At same time, roughly 70% of Cocody's population lives in precarious situations. The municipality consists of several urban areas and 11 rural-type villages. There are at least 7 public institutes of advanced education, including the University of Cocody and at least 5 public and private high schools. There are also several key public buildings such as the University Hospital Center (CHU), the publicly owned radio and television authority (RTI), the town hall (Marie de Cocody), and a 5 star luxury hotel (Hotel Ivoire) located on the edge of the Bay of Cocody. There are also many private hotels, banks, restaurants, a few shopping centers as well as private health centers such as the Sainte-Anne-Marie Polyclinic. All of these urban structures are potential sources of energy savings.

Due to its economic growth and the rapid development of its residential sector, Cocody has a high energy demand which is expected to grow if measures are not taken to regulate energy consumption. An important component of the "Cocody Green City, Carbon Well of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, and Africa" initiative aims at increasing renewable energy in the energy mix of the municipality. This project will help fight climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from country's energy sector while addressing the needs of a significant portion of the residents of Cocody that live in precarious situations. The project will also reduce unemployment among these vulnerable populations through job creation and will ease economic pressures through substantial savings on household electricity bills, contributing to the fight against the high cost of living which is an important issue on the government's agenda.

The increase in population of Cocody has led to a high demand for fire wood energy and puts

pressure on the forest resources, further highlighting a need to explore alternative sources of energy. Cocody also houses the country's largest household waste landfill called the Akouedo landfill. The use of traditional landfills like Akouedo poses several risks for the environment and public health including the spontaneous and uncontrolled emission of methane and carbon dioxide, contamination of soil, surface water and groundwater with leachate and the release of foul odors. At least 800 tons of household waste are generated per year in Cocody which could potentially produce up to 54,000 cubic meters of biogas (assuming an organic fraction of 40%). In terms of power generation, the quantity of waste generated in Cocody could potentially produce at least 100 MWh per year if all the biogas were used for electricity generation. In terms of cooking energy, more than 1000 biogas cylinders, 15 kg each, could be produced per year. This shows an incredible, untapped potential in exploring the production of biofuel from processed waste biomass.

Due to overpopulation and industrialization, in conjunction with climate change, the scale of ecosystem disturbance in both terrestrial and wetland areas has escalated in large cities like Abidjan. Since the mid 1970's, the Ebrié lagoon that surrounds Abidjan has lost most of its natural mangrove ecosystems and has become highly polluted with eutrophication problems and wastewater. As a result, the wildlife in the Ebrié lagoon has been under constant threats such as recurrent mass fish kills, invasive water lettuce and toxic algae proliferation, increased salinity, and shore erosion and sanding, directly impacting the livelihood of fishing villages along the coasts, representing more than 200,000 men and women living directly from lagoon fishing activities. Restoration of the lagoon and surrounding wetlands is an ecological priority.

Cocody's Green City Plan

We have identified twenty-three measures that will help Cocody achieve their goal to reduce carbon emissions by at least 70% by 2030. While most measures will produce results that show quantifiable reductions in carbon emissions, some will be slightly more difficult to measure. However, all of these measures are intended to achieve broader sustainability objectives, such as combatting terrorism and poverty and creating an eco-friendly mentality within the community and a willingness to adopt a sustainable lifestyle.

Key criteria used in identifying and developing these measures were the extent to which they reduced emissions, the scale of economic and community benefits they provided, and the ability of the City and its partners internationally to facilitate their implementation. While Cocody alone cannot win the fight against climate change, it can act as a beacon of hope with which to ignite a worldwide movement towards a sustainable future and a prototype on which to build it. This initiative was designed to integrate and support collaboration between the scientific teams and the local cultural leaders to develop innovative solutions and ideas. This community-based climate action plan has already started impacting the local population and relies on the engagement of the community as the key to addressing climate change.

The 23 measures and associated actions are grouped into the following categories:

1. Energy Use and Generation:

a. Implement 5000 solar lampposts, 1600 solar traffic lights at 400 intersections, creation of 4 solar photovoltaic power plants, 20,000 next-generation solar photovoltaic power kits in households.

b. Use solar energy to power large buildings of the municipality.

c. Produce and disseminate 1000 solar photovoltaic dryers to the women for the community, to assist them in quickly drying their food products. This will reduce drying time by 70%, eliminate molds, and avoid adding CO_2 emissions into the atmosphere.

d. Produce and promote ecological cook stoves for household use (200,000 initially with a goal to eventually produce 1 million in total). These stoves use bioetheanol that runs on sugarcane molasses from 3 sugar manufacturers of the country (Ferké1, Ferké 2, Borotou Koro) that will produce 12 thousand tons each of bioethanol per year and 800 metric tons of bio carbon. The stoves will effectively replace carbon-producing firewood and avoid adding CO_2 emissions to the atmosphere.

e. Distribution and promotion of solar water heaters in the building sector and improvement of the thermal performance of the structural envelope of the buildings.

f. Set up 4 wind farms on the banks of the lagoon or on the Ebrié to power the 4 coastal villages of Blockhauss, Cocody, M'Badon, M'Pouto.

g. Produce biogas and bioethanol from waste (household waste and molasses waste), as a source of renewable energy and as substitutes to fossil butane gas.

2. Transportation: Development and implementation of a sustainable transport and mobility plan which includes:

a. A dynamically integrated transport system that incorporates land use planning.

b. An inclusive transportation system that supports options of active, accessible and healthy lifestyles.

c. A safer, more efficient and equitable transport system for people, goods and services.

d. A well-maintained and low-carbon transport infrastructure.

e. A financially sustainable and self-sufficient transport system.

f. Program for the withdrawal of 1,000 used vehicles per year and the creation of a used vehicle repair center for 100,000 catalytic exhaust systems on polluting vehicles. These two initiatives alone will contribute to the reduction of more than 50 million tons of CO_2 emissions per year and to the improvement of air quality in the Cocody Commune and surrounding municipalities.

g. Introduction and use of new carbon-friendly taxis and buses.

3.Habitat Restoration and Land Use:

a. Planting of 2-million trees in parks and roadsides to create carbon green pools to sequester carbon from vehicles and households.

b. Reforestation, restoration and replanting of 2-million mangrove trees along the 30 km of lagoon coast. Mangroves provide habitat for juvenile aquatic species and preserve biodiversity.

c. Reforestation of local parks and botanical gardens through planting of 5-million additional trees.

4.Conservation and Protection of Water Resources:

a. Replanting mangroves to improve water filtration, desalinization, and water quality.

b. Mangrove restoration also combats against erosion and damage from floodwaters and storms.

c. Waste processing programs to produce biogas and fertilizers will reduce groundwater pollution from landfills and chemical fertilizers.

5. Community Sensitization and Adoption:

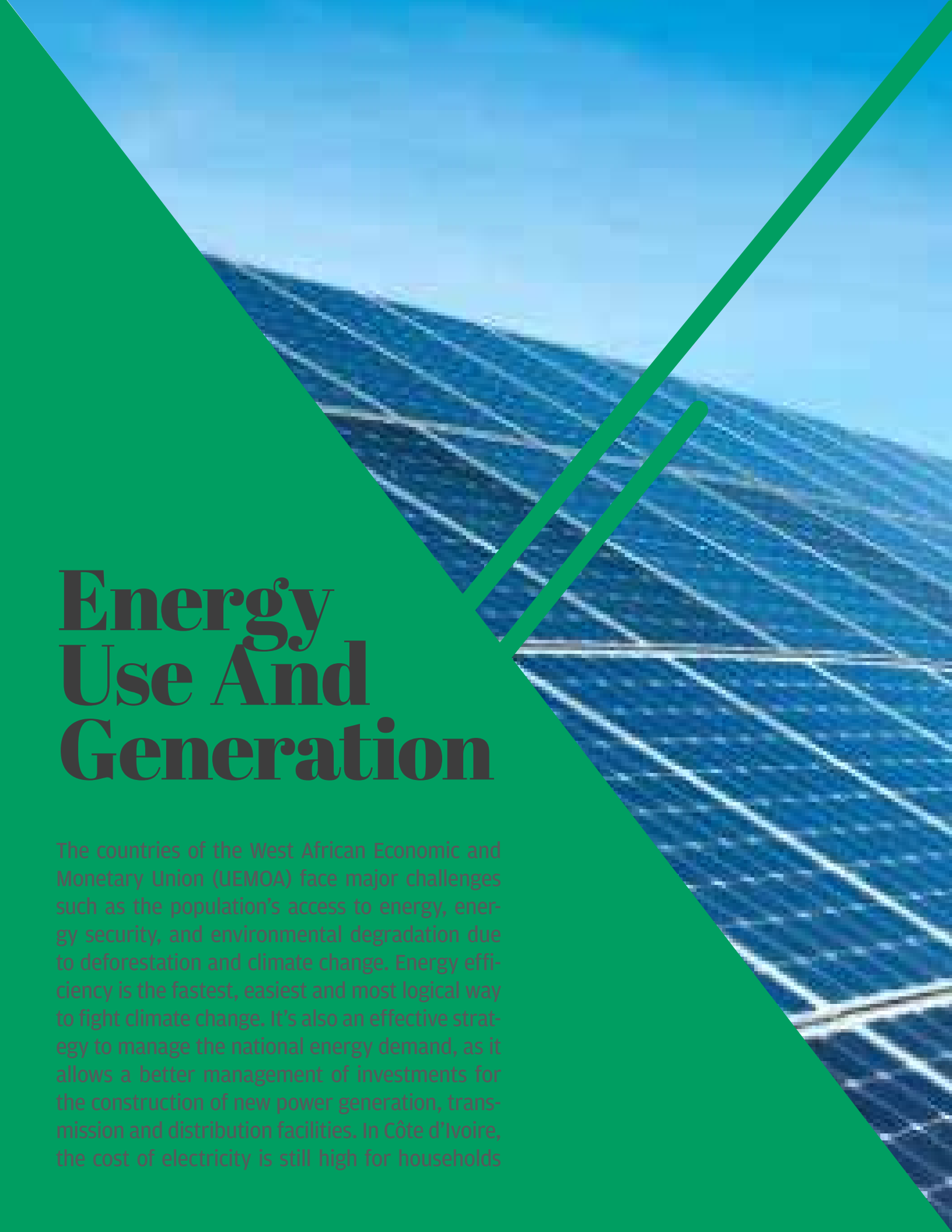
a. Radio station will keep community informed of initiatives, benefits to the community, and opportunities for involvement.

b. Training workshops will be held regularly on use of solar stoves, dryers, power kits and the benefits of habitat restoration and other measures.

c. Creation of 500,000 new jobs (100,000 direct - 400,000 indirect).

d. Provision of learning centers and training for community educators.

e. Training sessions to combat terrorism.



Energy Use And Generation

The countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) face major challenges such as the population's access to energy, energy security, and environmental degradation due to deforestation and climate change. Energy efficiency is the fastest, easiest and most logical way to fight climate change. It's also an effective strategy to manage the national energy demand, as it allows a better management of investments for the construction of new power generation, transmission and distribution facilities. In Côte d'Ivoire, the cost of electricity is still high for households

(cost for domestic use of 10 amperes capacity is about $0.14 USD per kWh excluding tax) and represents a significant portion of the budget of low-income and poor families.

The measures to be implemented in Cocody aim to reduce energy consumption in public works and in buildings without degrading their comfort. These include the large-scale distribution of energy-efficient lightbulbs and solar water heaters in the building sector, powering large buildings with solar energy, and improving the thermal performance of these buildings. In public spaces, the city will install solar energy powered lights for street lighting, and supply solar energy to power traffic lights across the municipality.

In the residential sector, measures will supply large scale solar energy for lighting, promote energy-efficient cooking appliances in households, produce and promote efficient cookstoves for household use, and reduce household energy consumption bills to combat the high cost of living. Solar dryers will be produced and distributed to women's groups to preserve their food and have the benefit of reducing drying time by 70%, eliminating molds, and avoiding the addition of CO_2 into the atmosphere.

In the 11 Attieke-producing Ebrié villages of Cocody, 1000 bio-digester units will be used to capture and recover methane produced during the cooking of Attieke and other foods with highly polluting residues. Capturing it and then changing it into clean electricity will avoid adding emissions into the atmosphere and the methane can be used to replace butane gas for use in lighting or cooking food. Additionally, to address the multiple problems resulting from the Akouedo landfill, household waste as well as waste from molasses production will be processed to produce biogas and bioethanol, as substitutes to fossil butane gas. Household waste conversion to biogas will also enable the production of good quality and affordable fertilizer for the enrichment of agricultural lands displacing a portion of chemical fertilizers used in agriculture. This process will minimize or avoid degradation of groundwater quality, the main source of drinking water of Abidjan.

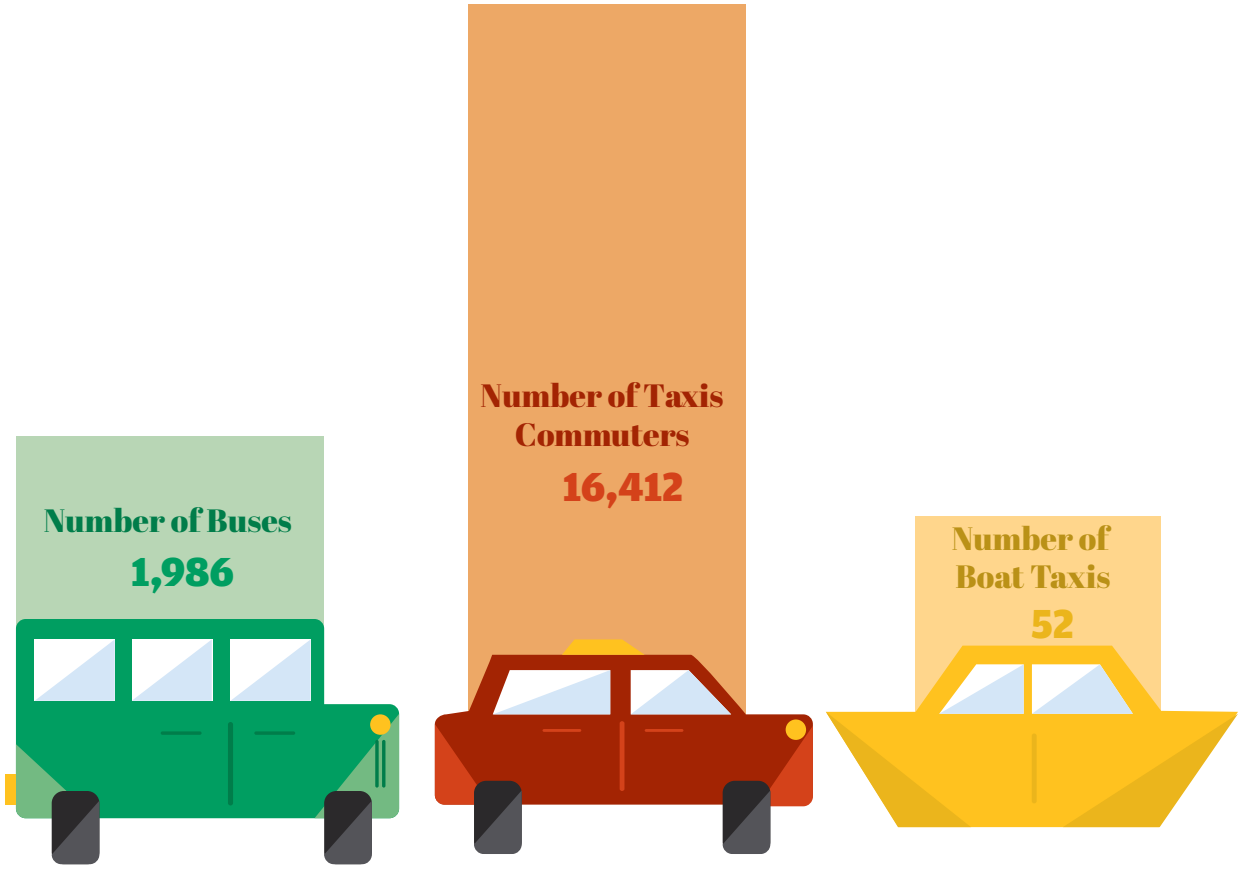
All of these measures, in both public and residential sectors, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions to fight climate change. Our multi-pronged approach to transition to renewable energy sources and streamline energy use in existing buildings, public spaces, and in residential homes, addresses the problem on many levels. Our goal is to have renewable resources supply at least 70% of energy needs by 2030. Because jobs in renewable energy are inherently local, they will need locals to fill them, which means more job creation in the community. Money saved from more energy-efficient structures and activities can be used to serve other areas of need, further enhancing the community's economy and energy independence.

Cocody Solar center

Cocody Solar Traffic Light

Number of Vehicles Cocody

142,650



Transportation

To align with the national government's mitigation and adaptation strategy of climate change, the Municipality of Cocody (800,000 inhabitants) has identified sustainable transport and mobility as a key element of its sustainable development plan. Emphasis is placed on integrating the mobility of people, goods and services with land use (urban sprawl) in a more holistic way, taking into account social, environmental and economic challenges in a sustainable development perspective. The project reconciles all modes of transport (road, rail, aviation, marine, waterbus and public transit) and mobilizes governments, investors, transporters and the community of Cocody to develop an

efficient and resilient transport system, which responds to the challenges of growing congestion, greenhouse gas emissions and pollution in the region.

The main objective is the development, implementation and maintenance of a multimodal transport system for Cocody residents to improve their resilience to the impacts of climate change. The project will assist governments, NGOs, and private companies in Cocody to implement sustainable mobility policies, programs, services and products that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, fight traffic congestion, and improve quality of life. The project is organized around 5 main activities identified through an active and inclusive consultation process with the involvement of the communities and stakeholders of Cocody. We believe that an integrated and sustainable transport program requires inclusive partnerships based on consensual principles and values, shared vision and objectives among government, the private sector, and civil society.

The plan takes an integrated approach to transportation and land use planning to maximize the efficiency of transport infrastructure, creating a sustainable and dynamic city with a system that minimizes both the number and duration of trips that inhabitants must make. An efficient means of transport, bicycle lanes and other forms of mobility will help provide multiple options for active, safe and accessible transportation. A secure transport system in which pedestrians, cyclists and motorists coexist is essential and ensuring equitable access to mobility and a high quality of life for all citizens, regardless of income level, requires universal access to the transport system.

To ensure the continued economic growth necessary to maintain Cocody as the economic engine of Abidjan, an efficient and cost-effective system is essential for the rapid and equitable movement of people, goods and services. Once established, a well-maintained transport system promotes economic vitality and a positive image for the Cocody community. Long range planning will help manage the key strengths, infrastructure and public transit system, enabling future generations to enjoy a high level of mobility and accessibility. Investing sustainably and strategically in maintaining transit infrastructure, streets, footpaths, sidewalks and bicycle lanes will ensure the continued economic and social sustainability of Cocody. This requires an analysis of the costs and benefits of each component as they are developed, and an assessment of potential sources of funding and program delivery to ensure financial sustainability for future generations.

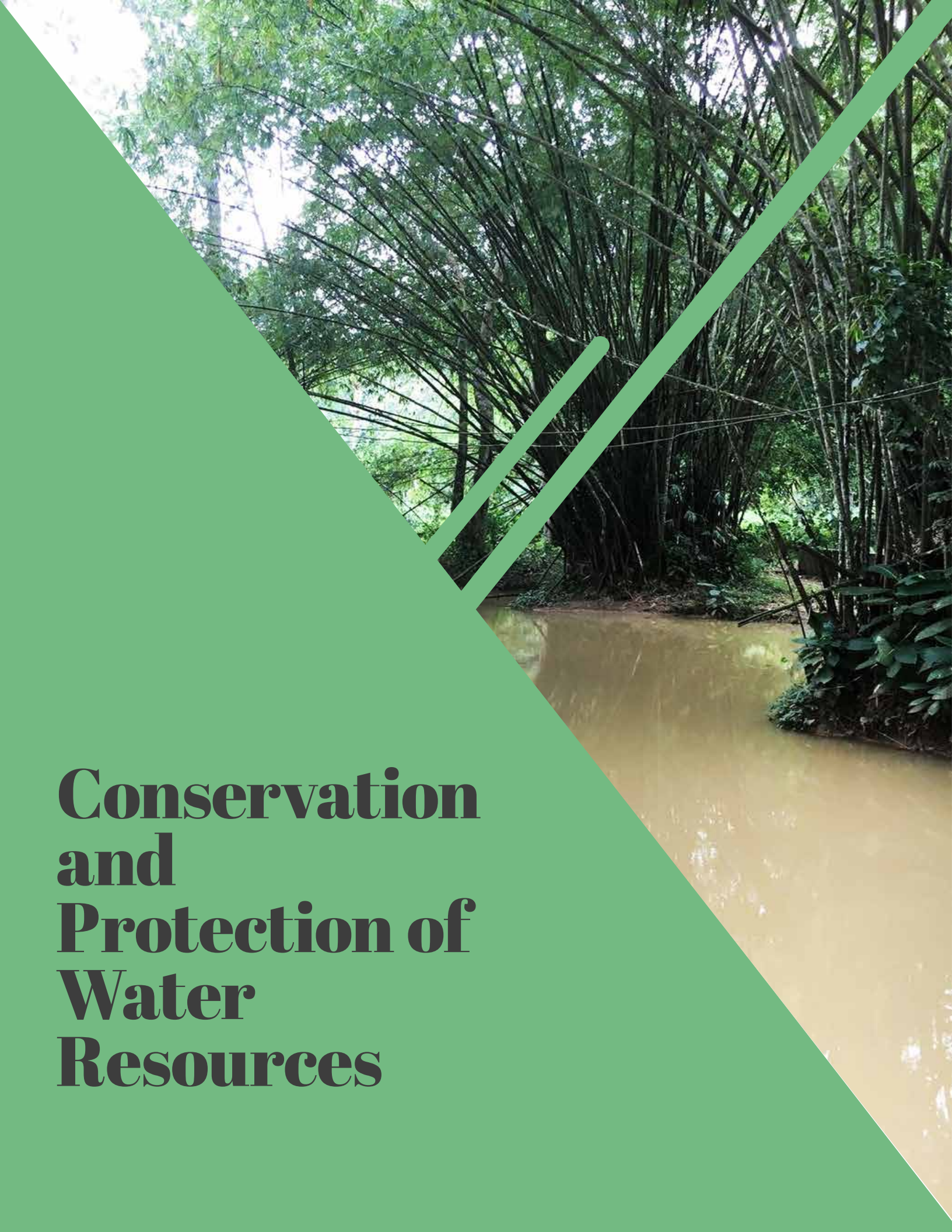
Additionally, to address the urgent need to reduce pollution and CO_2 emissions in Cocody, we've developed two programs to immediately address the problem. The first will withdraw 1,000 used vehicles per year and the second will create a used vehicle repair center to work on 100,000 catalytic exhaust systems on polluting vehicles. These two initiatives alone will contribute to the reduction of more than 50 million tons of CO_2 emissions per year and take important steps towards improving the air quality in the Cocody community and surrounding municipalities.

Habitat Restoration and Land Use

Reducing pollution levels in cities requires not only changes in energy efficiency and behavior, but also increased green spaces that can effectively mop up emissions through carbon sequestration. The restoration of the lagoon as well as the extensive tree planting initiatives will increase the climate change mitigating capacity of Municipality of Cocody and the resilience of local communities by reducing the carbon footprint by 1,032,391.88 t eqCO_2 per year. Restoring the green carbon well

of the community by re-greening its arteries with 2 million flowering trees will trap the CO_2 emitted by vehicles and buildings, thereby mitigating air pollution and beautifying the community. These green spaces will also improve the quality of life of local communities by providing recreational spaces for Cocody's population.

The mangrove and lagoon coastline restoration will significantly reduce pollution, coastline erosion, and eutrophication while providing habitat for many aquatic species. Community education programs will improve knowledge and awareness of the importance and role of mangroves in carbon sequestration and biodiversity of marine species. Maintenance and ecological upkeep of the Cocody lagoon will create even more local jobs.



Conservation and Protection of Water Resources

Mangroves act as natural filtration systems, nurseries for many species of aquatic animals, and protect against erosion and damage from floodwaters and storms. Revitalizing the city's mangroves will not only help the local population by conserving water resources, it will expand the local biodiversity as well, a further guard against climate-change-related issues.

Measures to reduce household waste going into the Akouedo landfill through programs to process waste into biogas will also help reduce seepage into groundwater sources. Additionally, the production of high quality, affordable fertilizers from this process will reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and minimize or avoid degradation of groundwater quality, the main source of drinking water of Abidjan.

Community Sensitization and Adoption

During the transition from urban center to Eco-City, community awareness and participation is crucial. Throughout the process, educators will provide the population with materials and promotional literature to build awareness of the benefits of green living. Workshops will be held with distribution of all new equipment (solar dryers, ecological cookstoves, photovoltaic power kits, etc.) on proper use

and benefits. Appropriate and sufficient funding will be needed to facilitate the adaptation and transition to healthier and more sustainable lifestyles. We will train 50,000 volunteers from the community to facilitate the transition from GHGs to clean green energy, and to combat terrorism and poverty. Cocody will create the country's first climate awareness radio station to further inform and motivate community members to become part of the green movement.

Throughout the process we will create 500,000 green jobs (100,000 directly and 400,000 indirectly) and form a task force in Cocody advocating for climate protection, health, reduction of GHGs, and the prevention of climate catastrophes. Local seminars and workshops will be offered to spread the results of the Eco-City project to other communities. The city and its local government and international organizations (ERI) will monitor the progress of all measures to ensure progress toward meeting emission reduction and community adoption goals.

The Earth Rights Institute Project Green City Cocody

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Conclusion

The most recent evaluation (June 2017) from the International Climate Score Report has indicated that current efforts to implement the Paris Agreement are already falling behind. Unless more countries take active measures to reduce carbon emissions and strengthen their policies, the Paris Agreement is in danger of failing to realize its mission. The effort to uphold the Paris Agreement is a global one and requires the active engagement of all countries. This is the warming tipping point above which scientists agree the earth will suffer widespread, irreversible ecological consequences.

The Cote d'Ivoire is taking positive actions to fulfill their pledge of 70% carbon reduction by 2030 and has adopted this "Cocody Green City" Program as the leading initiative for the country. However, the flow of funds to African nations has been slow and is the main barrier to progress in these areas. International investment and aid are essential to mobilize environmental action in West Africa. This project presents an ideal opportunity to address climate change in a community whose population is highly vulnerable to its effects and, at the same time, ready to embrace the positive changes the initiatives will offer.

All of the key components are in place to implement our comprehensive, multifaceted "Cocody Green City" project that has been over 10 years in development, working in collaboration with local and international development experts, NGOs, academic institutions, government agencies, and community leaders. The Mayor of Cocody has been working since 2013 to develop green initiatives and coordinate actions with the 13 other districts of Abidjan. Cocody has recently been identified as being ideally positioned to implement and lead climate change actions due to its accessibility, natural resources, connections to other communities, and thriving university population (1/3 of total population). The University Felix Houphouet Boigny has been organizing environmental actions and will be leading the way in promoting the alternative transportation, community cleanups, education and reforestation projects. Cocody has made a series of investments in sustainable development, including tree planting along major roadways, expansion of street lighting, and providing power for and reconstruction of clinics, pharmacies, schools and recreational spaces.

Although many community-based actions are underway in Cocody, they have barely begun to tap into the incredible potential for sustainable growth, given the cultural and environmental resources available in the community. To continue this necessary work and fully realize the vision of creating a prototype Eco-City, the municipality of Cocody needs international support. This ambitious project addresses climate change in a city strick-

en with poverty, overpopulation, pollution, and poor infrastructure to raise the quality of life for its residents and create a sustainable urban center. “Cocody Green City” will serve as a realistic model for transitioning neighboring communities toward greater sustainability and spark an ecological movement in Cote d’Ivoire and beyond.

Principle stakeholders: Cote d’Ivoire, Europe, USA.

Acknowledgements

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Aipra, vivre en éco-citoyen !
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