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Climate Governance in Algeria

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Algeria faces rising climate and development challenges, including hydrocarbon dependence, weak institutions, and water scarcity. Yet opportunities exist in decentralizing governance, diversifying energy, and integrating climate policy into national planning.

Algeria's Challenges

- Economic dependence on hydrocarbon export revenue
- Bureaucratic inefficiencies, underdeveloped private sector, and infrastructure deficit limits capacity for economic diversification
- Lack of clean energy infrastructure
- As of 2022, only 0.7 percent of Algeria's generated energy originated from clean sources
- Freshwater scarcity due to droughts and over-extraction, further strained by increasing demand for food and inefficient agricultural practices
- Unclear timelines for climate-related projects
- Weak institutional capacity, as a lack of publicly available regulations impacts strategic policy coordination across sectors and levels of government
- Low budgetary allocation for spending related to environmental protection and conservation (0.02 to 0.07 percent of the total budget in 2024)
- Scientific brain drain due to lack of quality and universal educational infrastructure

See full article and sources:

Joy Arkeh and Selma Khalil, "Climate Governance in Algeria: Analyzing Institutional Capacities, Challenges, and Strategic Pathways," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, December 5, 2024, <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2024/12/climate-governance-algeria?lang=en>.

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Algeria's Opportunities

- Decentralizing and integrating ministries, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations locally and regionally
- Bolstering of human capacity by delineating new sector-specific roles
- Implementing of climate-responsive budget lines into existing budget plans
- Creating cross-sectoral governance bodies—such as the National Agency for the Valuation of Hydrocarbons Resources—to manage responsibilities, implement policy, and streamline oversight measures
- Diversifying energy production and economic investments involving the generation and distribution of energy resources
- Short-term mitigation laws such as the Finance Law of 2023, allocating payment credits for cleaning and protecting the environment

Policy Recommendations

- Adopt a nexus approach to climate risk assessments, which approaches environmental hazards as a multidimensional threat to national resources, health, and economic and social security
- Institutionalize cross-sectoral consultations such as the kind pursued under the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy in laws such as Executive Decree 207-15, which prioritizes preventative and disaster-recovery measures based on the economic loss imposed on communities most acutely exposed to environmental hazards, improving institutional framework and policy coordination
- Track and document information regarding the output of the National Economic, Social, and Environmental Council's (CNESE) policy suggestions in climate governance among relevant stakeholders to create an inclusive process of lawmaking
- As much of the climate strategy is centralized within the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy's purview, reallocate responsibilities to new, more specialized organizational bodies or existing ministries concerned with the appropriate climate-sensitive sector to effectively address all segments of the economy and climate-related issues
- Increase budgetary allocations toward the water resources and renewable energy sectors to satisfy mitigation and adaptation goals



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