Senegal climate change

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Extreme drought is impacting agriculture, and causing food and job insecurity. More than 70% of the population is employed in the agricultural sector. Sea level rise and resulting coastal erosion is expected to cause damage to coastal infrastructure and displace a large percentage of the population living in coastal areas. Climate change also has the potential to increase land degradation that will likely increase desertification in eastern Senegal, leading to an expansion of the Sahara.[8]

Most energy in Senegal is produced from fossil fuels,[12] predominantly diesel and gas. A small portion of Senegal"s energy comes from renewable energy, such as the Manantali Dam in Mali and a new wind farm in Thi?s.

Historically, Senegal was not a major producer of fossil fuels but significant discoveries in natural gas, have led to a major increase in production.[13]

The main water resources in Senegal are dependent on rainfall. Rainfall deficits and increased variability due to climate change will likely reduce aquifer recharge rates. Major population centers are already realizing saltwater intrusion into aquifers and arable land. Sea level rise and decreased rainfall will exacerbate salinity issues.[17] As more saltwater intrusion happens, this will threaten fish stock in the country.[8]

The combination of increased temperatures and decreased rainfall will likely increase desertification in eastern Senegal, leading to expansion of the Sahara.[8]

Like in other parts of West Africa, the expected extreme weather including more severe drought in the Sahel region is expected to greatly effect food security and agricultural yields.[18]

Moreover, animal herding communities, which include about 2.5 million people in the broader Sahel region, will be severally impacted, because weather variability will lead to increased overgrazing, pressure on water supplies, and subsequent effects on the economic viability of herding communities.[23] For example, in 2017, pressures on lands led to increased demand for manufactured animal feed, causing prices to skyrocket and farmers to sell large portions of their herds.[23]

In 2006, Senegal initiated a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) as part of the larger trend to create National Adaptation Plans.[18][9] A National Committee on Climate Change was appointed by presidential degree to support the program.[18] Additionally, there is a Climate Fund that is an instrument of climate finance.[17]

In 2015, Senegal released its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC"s) that indicated climate change

would be treated as a national priority.[10]

At the same time that these policies are in place, there is evidence that they are not fully being acted on. For example, an article in The Nation focused on climate justice described how a coal fire power plan was built in Bargny, Senegal, a site that had been identified by the government as a displacement location for communities displaced by sea level rise.[6]

Climate impacts in Senegal include rising temperatures, heat waves, high humidity, decreasing rainfall, and increased length and intensity of dry spells. Addressing climate change will be critical to the country"s pursuit of sustainable, low-emission economic growth.

Meanwhile, rising sea levels of up to one meter by 2100 along Senegal"s coastline will impact the country"s urban coastal zone which is home to roughly two-thirds of Senegal"s population and 90 percent of the country"s industrial production. This low-lying zone is characterized by high water tables and poor drainage systems, putting the area at risk from flooding, erosion, salinization, and impaired water quality.

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