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MOU Between WASCAL and ECOWAS on Green Hydrogen and Other Renewable Energies Initiatives

WASCAL and the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in the field of sustainable energy development in West Africa through development of an ambitious and viable

project pipeline for investment, implementation, and operation, with reference to the Green Hydrogen and facilitate the wide dissemination of Green Hydrogen throughout the ECOWAS region.

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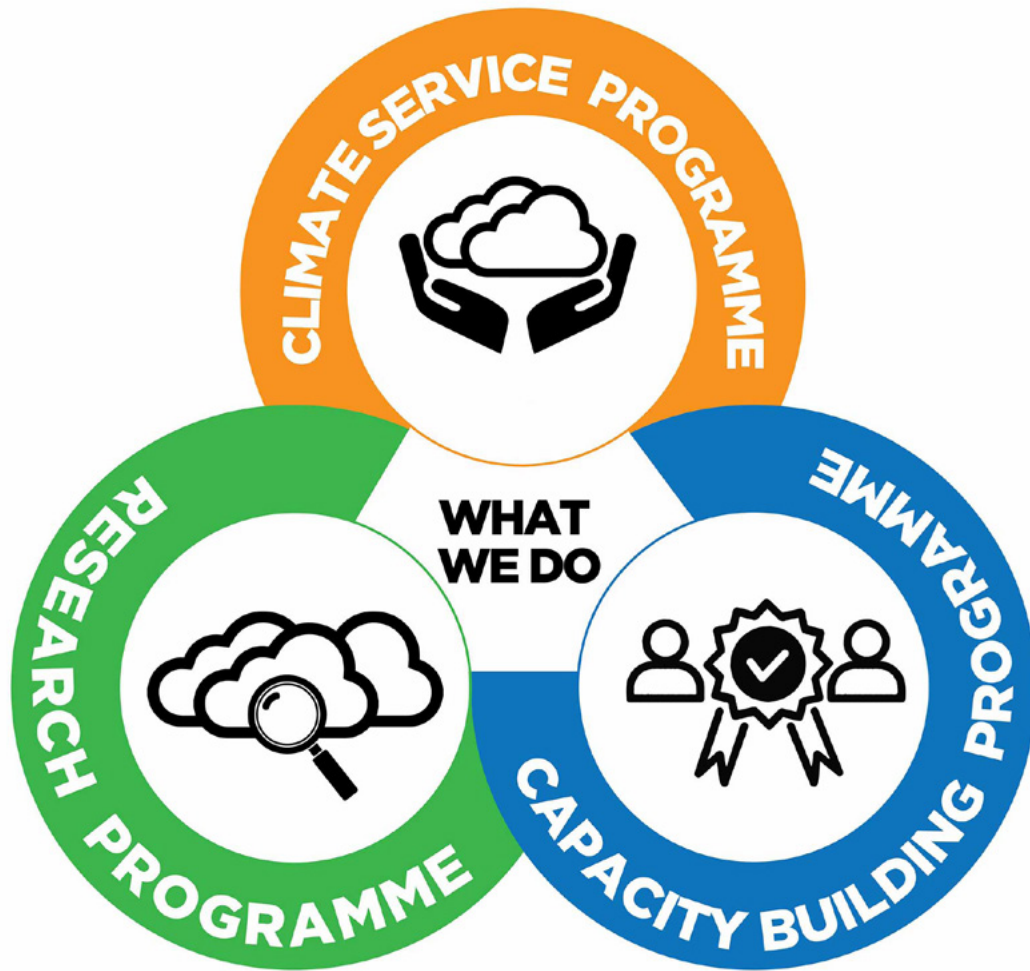
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COVID-19 KILLS





We are guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 in our quest to Combat Climate Change and Improve Livelihoods

WASCAL Presents 60 Automatic Hydrological Sensors to West African Countries with Support From Germany



WASCAL has held a Science Policy Dialogue to discuss the state of art of the BMBF funded Hydrometeorological equipment and to commission the sixty (60) Automatic Hydrological sensor facilities to the seven beneficiary river basins and national hydrological agencies in the West African sub- region.

The event was attended by key global players within the Climate Change and Environmental Services space, as well as partners of WASCAL, principally from BMBF, WASCAL Ministerial Council Members, West African Ministers responsible for Water Resources, Environment and Agriculture, governing board members, amongst other partners and was held at the institution's Competence Centre in Ouagadougou, with other participants joining virtually. The Policy Dialogue was also meant to discuss sustainability strategies for the transboundary measurement equipment.

In his opening remarks, the Executive Director of WASCAL, Dr. Moumini Savadogo, spelt out the infrastructural vision of the institution. "As an organization, part of our vision is to strengthen the

infrastructural capacity and bridge the hydroclimatic data gaps in West Africa. That is why I am delighted to announce that with funding from BMBF, WASCAL has acquired (60) Automatic Hydrological Sensors (AHS) which will be of tremendous benefit to all our member-countries. For us, this presents the opportune time as an institution to formidably establish a transboundary hydrological observations network in addition to our transboundary climate observatory network."

Director of Research at the WASCAL Competence Centre, Professor Kehinde Ogunjobi also stated that; "Achieving sustainable development and climate adaptation is in increasing demand as far as weather, climate, and water information to help protect lives and livelihoods from hydrometeorological hazards are concerned. That is why today, WASCAL is committed to providing unique solutions to these concerns".

Speaking on behalf of BMBF, Prof. Rene Haak stated the increasing commitment of the BMBF to the cause of WASCAL in the combating of Climate Change and improving livelihoods.

His Excellency Minister, Yahouza Sadissou, Chairman of WASCAL Ministerial Council, reiterated his commitment to working together with his colleague West African Ministers to ensure sustainability of WASCAL through the country contributions and policy decisions by WASCAL.

While presenting the equipment to the Executive Director of Volta river basin, the Minister of Higher Education, Burkina Faso represented by Prof Nicholas Barro stated that the equipment represents targeted effort by the BMBF in support of West African research and capacity building in favour of climate resilience and water resource management. [Read More](#)

WASCAL Comptence Centre Engages West African Players in Meteorological Observation Network

The WASCAL Competence Centre in Ouagadougou has organized a two-day regional workshop on “Hydro-Meteorological Observation Networks: Status quo and Perspectives” to interact on the roadmap and future perspectives of the acquired hydro sensors for the region.

The workshop also preceded the official commissioning of the equipment to beneficiaries.

The overall objective of the workshop was to discuss the regional perspectives for near surface observations, the contribution of WASCAL and prospective to filling major data gaps in the region.

The technical workshop brought together senior scientists, meteorology and hydrology experts, WASCAL’s partner institutions, and other West African stakeholders to participate in the technical session of the workshop, with directors of the major river basins; Volta Basin Authority (VBA), Niger Basin Authority (ABN),

of existing equipment, is also a major issue in the region. The need for new and up-to-date sensors and need to extend the observation networks current parameters to new ones like air pollution, ionic composition of water, amongst others is desirable.

In his address, the Director of the WASCAL Competence Centre, Professor Kehinde Ogunjobi expounded on the WASCAL Transboundary Hydrological Observation Networks. “To ensure climate data availability to support research, education, services development, and capacity building, WASCAL has built three research catchments and pilot sites in three countries, equipped with various hydro-climate stations and sensors, and a developed strong transboundary climate observatory network with national Meteorological agencies to whom 50 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) were distributed between 2017 and 2018 to strengthen and reinforce regional meteorological data availability” He said.

Professor Ogunjobi also threw more light on the future of the Observation Networks:

“Still in the vision of strengthening infrastructural capacity and closing the hydroclimate data gaps of the region, WASCAL through funding by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has now acquired sixty (60) Automatic Hydrological Sensors for the benefit of its member-countries. This is also the opportunity for WASCAL to establish a transboundary hydrological observations network in the image of the transboundary climate observatory network” he indicated.

Beyond the Hydrological and Meteorological observation networks, WASCAL has also been collecting Climate Change related data from its agriculture, biodiversity, socioeconomics, and GIS observation networks in the region. The overall WASCAL Data Infrastructure (WADI) is used to tailor the data collection. WASCAL’s contribution and roadmap for the dispatching and installation of the already acquired Automatic Weather Station in its West African member countries was also discussed alongside the regional perspectives for near surface observation network in the region before closing the technical workshop. *Read More*



Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS) in the sub-region, and representatives from other key institutions like the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) were also in attendance.

The roundtable discussion session provided in-depth substantive status quo analysis of hydro-meteorological observation networks in the region. The challenges identified by the stakeholders during the workshop include lack of data due to the lack of equipment supported by the lack of data sharing. The obsolescence of most existing equipment need for a sustainable preventive and curative maintenance and replacement

Fighting Covid-19: WASCAL Staff in the Federal University of Technology, Akure Donate to 50 Families in Nigeria



As part of efforts to fight the global pandemic corona virus, members of staff of the Doctoral Research Programme-West African Climate Systems (WACS -FUTA) has donated 50 packs of COVID-19 palliatives to a neighboring village to the University, Ibule-Soro.

The packages were meant to ameliorate the biting effects of the COVID-19 lockdown. Voluntary donations were received from members of staff as well as few other well-wishers. A pharmaceutical company also donated some packs of vitamin C tablets.

Each package consisted of a customized face mask in the name of FUTA WASCAL, one hand sanitizer, a pack of Vitamin C, one pack of rice; 4 packs of noodles, spaghetti, and onions.

In a brief introduction, the Director of DRP-WACS, Prof.

Debo Adeyewa, introduced WASCAL and its efforts to train doctoral students on climate issues across West Africa with particular emphasis on the role of DRP-WACS (FUTA). The 50 families that received the packages were carefully selected by the Regent of the village, Princess Moyinoluwa Falowo. She appreciated WASCAL for the kind gesture at such a challenging time. Ten (10) other packages were given to palace chiefs and the Regent making a total of 60 packs.

The Doctoral Programme in West African Climate Systems focuses on educating doctoral students in the fields of meteorology and climatology, providing theoretical and practical training needed for the task of developing effective and sustainable adaptation and mitigation strategies to cope with the effects of climate change. [Read More](#)



Handing Over of Six (6) Automatic Weather Stations

WASCAL at the Competence Centre in Ouagadougou, led by the Director of Research, Prof. Kehinde Ogunjobi has successfully handed over six (6) of the 50 BMBF funded Automatic Weather Stations to the National Meteorological Agency of Burkina Faso. To help refine forecasts in order to be able to launch early warnings which will be used to warn decision-makers so that they make the appropriate decisions and prevent anything that is affected by sensitive weather and climate phenomena, WASCAL's Competence Centre in Ouagadougou with funding from BMBF. This is one of the unique ways of WASCAL's contribution towards combating climate change and improving livelihoods in West Africa. [Read More](#)



WASCAL Cote D'Ivoire Partners Climate Leadership Programme for Women in West Africa

The WASCAL Doctoral School in Biodiversity-African Centre of Excellence on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture (WASCAL / CEA-CCBAD) of the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny Cote d'Ivoire, has been chosen to host the Climate Leadership Programme for Women in West Africa (WAfriCLP).

The programme which selected a cohort of 18 women from Benin, Burkina-Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, and Togo for its implementation, is a women's Climate Change leadership capacity building programme that provides learning, experimentation, education, research and training opportunities for scientists, innovators, and analysts and editors.

WAfriCLP will enable these targets to develop and

advance knowledge on climate change in Africa.

The WASCAL GSP in Côte d'Ivoire has one of the best structures used to engage in Climate Change and Land Management. The programme is coordinated by Prof. Fatagoma Sorho and under the directorship of Prof. Souleymane Konate, the Director of WASCAL Graduate Studies Programme (GSP) in Cote d'Ivoire.

The launching ceremony was attended by key representatives from sectoral ministries such as: The Ministry of Women, Family and Children, which sponsors the event and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research as well as the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development which co-chairs. [Read More](#)

PAUWES HOLDS ONLINE GRADUATION

Online graduation ceremony was held for PAUWES - PAU Institute of Water and Energy Sciences, incling Climate Change students, (Institute of Water and Energy Sciences), via Zoom at the WASCAL Competence Centre in Burkina-Faso. [Read More](#)

WASCAL Congratulates Germany on its 30th Unity Day



WASCAL wishes to congratulate the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) on its Unity Day which falls on 3rd October.

Our partnership with the Federal Republic of Germany over the years has been mutually beneficial. The tremendous support in working together to ensure the successful fight against Climate Change and improving livelihoods in West Africa, to us, has been well embraced.

Providing over 300 scholarships to future scientists in West Africa in 12 Climate Change thematic areas; supplying Automatic Weather Stations and hydro-sensors to national meteorological agencies within the region; building scientific capacities in Climate Change and championing the cause of renewable energies have all been made possible due to your technical and financial support.

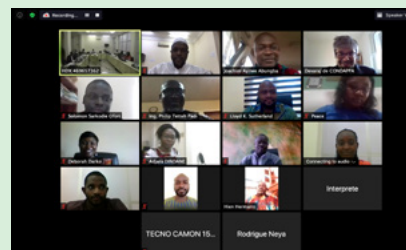
You have been instrumental in uniting West Africa to fight the common goal of fighting climate change.

So, on this occasion, we wish you success and look forward to more wins ahead. [Read More](#)

CIREG Policy Dialogue

CIREG (Climate Information for Integrated Renewable Electricity Generation) organized a series of training workshops in the framework of the CIREG Project with a climax on Science Policy Dialogue.

The key objectives are to foster the dialogue between policy makers and climate scientists, on the impacts of climate change, prospects for renewable energy, and opportunities for integrated climate-smart management of renewable energy and water for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and generating additional science-based inputs for the dialogue while increasing the skills of West African technicians. Technicians from the Energy Commission of Ghana; Volta River Authority, Water Resources Commission, Ministry of Energy, the Energy Center- KNUST, and GRIDCo



Ghana were being exposed to advanced functionalities of the Water Evaluation And Planning (WEAP) and Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning (LEAP) models. [Read More](#)



WASCAL Cabo Verde Welcomes 2nd Batch of Master's Students in Climate Change and Marine Sciences

The WASCAL Graduate Studies Programme in Climate Change and Marine Science funded by the), in Cabo Verde has welcomed students from the 2nd batch of the Master's in Climate Change and Marine Sciences at the Institute of Engineering and Marine Sciences – ISECMAR, of the Atlantic Technical University.

The event which took place in the Yard of the Building of ISECMAR, was chaired by the Dignified Chancellor of the University, Dr. Raffaella Gozzelino and was attended by the Dean of ISECMAR, Dr. Luis Fernandes, the Director of WASCAL Graduate Studies Programme, Cabo Verde, Dr. Corrine Almeida and the Deputy Director, Dr. António Pinto Almeida.

Also present were the students of the first batch of the programme, lecturers of ISECMAR as well as the staff of WASCAL.

Speaking at the event, the Director of WASCAL Cabo Verde, Dr. Corrine Almeida, stated that despite the constraints caused by the COVID -19 pandemic, her team was able to adapt the Programme and met the conditions for the students to attend lectures via videoconference. Other activities included study visits and field trips.

The students, most of whom are new to the country expressed gratitude and delight about the entire course,



the warm welcome by WASCAL staff, and looked forward to an exciting time during their academic period in Cabo Verde.

The Master's in Climate Change and Marine Sciences is one of the twelve Post Graduate programmes in Climate Change run by WASCAL in eleven countries to provide needed scientific and academic skills in climate, marine sciences, and management both on an international and on a regional level in West Africa, in a Climate Change context. The Programme prepares West African students for subsequent post-graduate studies or professional careers as managers or experts in industry, consultancy, governmental agencies among others. [Read More](#)

WASCAL WEBINAR

WASCAL Webinar with Director of Capacity Building Department, Prof. Daouda Kone as the Moderator. [Read More](#)



Henry Sila Nziok



Peter Luefh



Claire Baker

WASCAL WEBINAR

Biocontrol of Weed for Food and Nutrition Security in West Africa: The Case of Striga



Frank K. Ackah



Imme Gerke



David Sands



Prof. Daouda Kone
Moderator

December 16, 2020

1500hrs - 1730hrs GMT

VIA zoom

For participation and information - kone.d@wascal.org

MOU Between WASCAL and ECOWAS on Green Hydrogen and Other Renewable Energies Initiatives

Continued from front page

The Memorandum of Understanding seeks to bring the two institutions together to cooperate in the field of sustainable energy development in West Africa through establishment of an ambitious and viable project pipeline for investment, implementation, and operation, especially with reference to Green Hydrogen.

The project, H2 Atlas Africa will ensure partnership with a consortium of relevant African research institutions to explore the potentials of Green Hydrogen production from the enormous renewable energy sources within the continent. The aim is to support sustainable and economic development in Africa through a viable hydrogen economy.

The proposed Green Hydrogen Project, which is multi-phased, will also develop an Atlas of Green Hydrogen potential in Africa and lead to the implementation of pilot projects in selected locations within the region.

The agreement also seeks to fulfill the objectives of the UN Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) Initiative which aims at universal access to modern energy services by 2030; doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and doubling the share of renewables in the global energy mix.

The renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions have the capacity to address the challenges of energy access, energy security and climate change



simultaneously and effectively in the ECOWAS region, considering the fact that there are now renewable energy technologies that offer increasingly interesting opportunities to meet the growing urban electricity demand to boost access to sustainable energy services in rural areas.

By this MoU, ECREEE is mandated to mobilize relevant policy makers and experts to work on the Green hydrogen initiative in the region, which is in line with the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy (EREP) and Bioenergy Policy (EBEP). The ECOWAS institution is also expected to contribute building human, institutional and corporate capacities at regional, national, and local level to foster the development and implementation of Green Hydrogen projects.

WASCAL on the hand will work with ECREEE to the project development, a strong community engagement plan in order to support the local population and the local communities during the development and pre-construction process with required facilities, job creation programs, hydrogen training programs, implementation of new hydrogen technologies and other incentives.

[Read More](#)

WASCAL and West African Vice Chancellors Strengthen Partnerships to Fight Climate Change

WASCAL has held a strategic meeting with its 12 Lead Universities in West Africa to strengthen the collaboration between the organization and Lead University Vice-Chancellors for sustainability.

The meeting which created a communication platform between the vice chancellors of the Lead Universities, WASCAL and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) acknowledged the vice chancellors for their comprehensive support to the Graduate Studies Programme of the organization over the years. The meeting also showcased the impact story of the entire WASCAL programme across all the universities in its quest to build capacities to combat

power with a total number of 120 students per year – in 3 years 360 experts for West Africa on the field on Hydrogen which has become the alternative source of Energy for the World now.” He stated.

The Executive Director of WASCAL, Dr. Moumini Savadogo expressed a heartfelt gratitude to the Vice Chancellors for their continuous partnerships.

“It will excite you to know that most of our graduates are today doing excellently well in their various places of endeavours. They are making positive impact the world over and this can be conspicuously attributed to the quality education your universities are renowned for. You have indeed instilled uncompromising discipline, transferred unalloyed knowledge and provided the cutting-edge qualities that make them outstanding, wherever, and irrespective.

In his address, the Director of Capacity Building, Professor Daouda Kone, sought for the continuous collaboration from the vice chancellors even as they prepared together to launch the 5th Batch of the Graduate Studies Programme.

He also announced the plans and preparations for the launch of application for the first batch of international master’s programme in Climate Change and Green Hydrogen.

The vice chancellors, in their various contributions, expressed gratitude to BMBF for supporting this unique programme. Intense discussions on moving WASCAL forward in a sustainable manner were successfully held.



Climate Change and improve livelihoods.

Delivering his opening statement, Professor Renee Haak of BMBF assured participants of the support of his ministry.

“Now we are planning to launch the 5th Batch of the programs with 130 new students for 2021 to 2025. In addition, we will create 6 new Master schools on Renewable Energies and in particular on Hydrogen

Since 2012, WASCAL has worked with 12 West African Universities to provide free scholarships to well qualified scientists at post-graduate levels in different Climate related issues as well as strengthen the capacities of scientists and other actors in order to help the West African region develop suitable mitigation and adaptation strategies while combatting climate change and improving livelihoods.

[Read More](#)

Engagement with Farmers in the Green Builder's Project

Through a multi-stakeholders Platform, Dr. Safie Sanfo, of WASCAL Competence Centre in Ouagadougou succeeded in mobilizing women farmers in the Green Builder's Project funded by Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030 in Africa (LIRA) especially vegetable growers, women collecting waste, and women recycling organic solid waste into compost were able to co-produce, create and exchange knowledge, including cross border knowledge on waste management, recycling and repurposing.

The project allowed waste collectors, and market gardeners to share, co-produce and integrate knowledge with science, and to have some control over dissemination of knowledge gained that helped everyone learn more about the benefits from the project outcomes responsive to their needs.



These are the kind of women we celebrate on the occasion of the United Nation's World Rural Women's Day. [Read More](#)

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PREVENTION



WASH HANDS



HAND SANITIZER



USE MASK



SOCIAL DISTANCING



DISINFECTION



AVOID HANDSHAKE



SELF QUARANTINE



WASCAL Cabo Verde Appoints New Deputy Director

Following the appointment of Dr. Luís Fernandes to the post of current President of the Institute of Engineering and Marine Sciences (ISECMAR), Prof. Dr. António Pinto Almeida has been appointed to the position of Deputy Director of the Master's Programme in Climate Change and Marine Sciences, in the framework of of the WASCAL

Cabo Verde programme. Prof. Dr. António Pinto Almeida is involved with the WASCAL Programme in Cabo Verde since its implementation and has actively supported the process of selection of the students of the first edition of the above-mentioned Programme of Master's degree. Congratulations! [Read More](#)

WASCAL'S Fatou Gueye Becomes First Female Professor of Economics at the University of Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD), Senegal



Director of the WASCAL's Doctoral Research Programme (DRP) in Climate Change Economics, at the Cheikh Anta Diop University Senegal, Fatou Gueye, has become the first female professor in Economics at the University since its establishment in 1957.

This was announced by the Committee of the 'Conseil Africain et Malgache de l'Enseignement Supérieur (CAMES)', the solely mandated Inter-governmental entity in charge of assessing applications from national University teaching and research personnel for an academic promotion, in all the 18 Francophone African countries.

Fatou Gueye recently ascended to the position

of the Director of the WASCAL Doctoral Research Programme in Senegal, after serving as the Assistant Coordinator from 2011. She obtained her PhD in Economics in 2012 as part of the Inter-university Postgraduate Programme (NPTCI) at UCAD. She was then recruited at the Department of Economics of the Faculty of Economics (FASEG) in 2008 where she has been actively involved in research work on the informal sector in West and Central Africa, undertaken by CREA/Cheikh Anta Diop University for more than 12 years till now. She has also conducted research on various topics about sustainable development.

As a West African international Climate Change organization committed to providing Climate Change solutions through research and capacity building, WASCAL is proud to have Professor Fatou Gueye as one of its numerous high-class Professor. Congratulations Professor.

WASCAL is confident that you will continue to lead the WASCAL-DRP in Senegal to focus on applying economic rationality to analyze adaptation and mitigation strategies related to Climate Change, to ensure an interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach to climate related analysis and policy. [Read More](#)



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