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# FACTSHEET

## Doctoral Research Programme in Climate Change and Education, THE GAMBIA

Director in Charge of Programme: Prof. Sidat Yaffa

WASCAL Capacity Building Programme facilitates academic education amongst 12 West African universities in collaboration with German institutions through the Graduate Studies Programme (GSP). Each programme selects students from each of the WASCAL member countries through open calls for applications (scholarship and fee-paying students). WASCAL has since 2012, maintained its strong commitment, under the sponsorship of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) to provide climate change solution through capacity building by helping educate the next generation of scientists attain an in-depth knowledge of different climate related issues in order to help the region develop suitable management strategies.

English language is used as the main language of instruction. Both Masters

and Doctoral students are expected to participate in four months language training in English (University of Cape Coast, Accra-Ghana) and French (University of Lomé - Togo) for Anglophone and Francophone students respectively.

### PROGRAMME RELEVANCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is scientifically complex, and is accompanied by economic, social and political ramifications. Article 6 of the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) urges the development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes on climate change and its effects; it further urges parties to the convention to develop and implement education and training programs. Also, UNFCCC advocates for capacity building

on climate change to be a priority in all regions of the world, especially in West Africa, through the facilitation of more national and regional activities to combat climate change adversities.

The Doctoral Research Programme in Climate Change and Education is created at the The University of the Gambia in the framework of the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) to build

the climate change expertise of students from eleven West African countries in an inspiring, interdisciplinary and intercultural learning environment. Each year, ten to twenty students are admitted to the programme.

The programme is combating climate change through its training activities and research output that are geared towards specific objectives as follows:

A special focus is laid on the capacity development of skills in communication, education and public relations. These skills are highly relevant for policy-advice, public awareness building on climate change, for the development of climate services, as well as for the implementation of adaptation programmes.

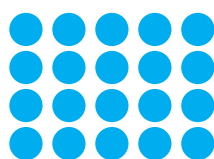
## HOST UNIVERSITY

The University of the Gambia hosts the Doctoral Research Programme in Climate Change and Education. It was established by an Act of the National Assembly of the Gambia in March 1999. The enactment, which was a bold step to fulfilling a long-standing desire of the people of the Gambia and to respond to severe years of advocacy both within and outside the Country for a university, ended years of indecision on the university question. The WASCAL Doctoral Programme resides on a beautiful and inviting campus in the market town Farafenni, in the North Bank Region of The Gambia. The campus aims to serve as a role model for sustainability and climate-friendliness, as well as a workplace for other WASCAL staff and students and knowledge pool for climate change related activities in The Gambia.

## BENEFICIARIES SO FAR

**31 West  
African  
students**

**Full scholarship scheme:**  
accommodation, tuition,  
travel, and cost of research.



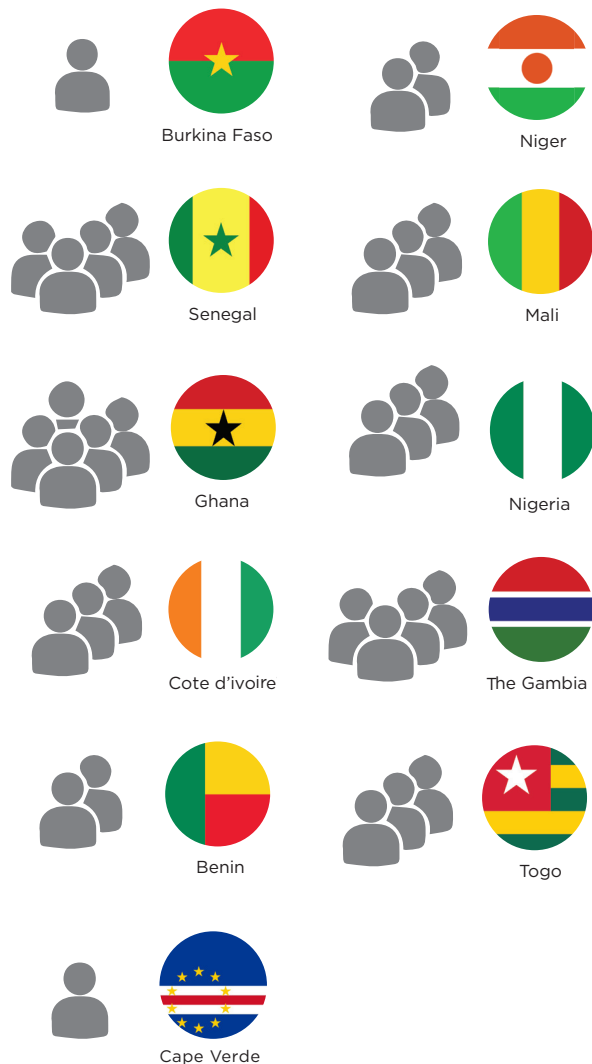
**20 graduated**  
2012 to 2019



**11 students in  
4th batch**

- admitted in 2019
- completion in 2022

## COUNTRY BREAKDOWN OF BENEFICIARIES SO FAR



## MODE OF ADMISSION

Call for application (through advert) for scholarship as well as for fee-paying students and then selection through the relevant committee with the involvement of the School of Postgraduate Studies (SPGS). Recommendations are then sent to the International Advisory Board.

## IMPACT

- The programme has successfully trained and empowered individuals across West Africa to prepared to work as educational experts and communication officers for national and international agencies, the media, as well as for civil society and donor organizations.
- Some continue their academic career in Education or Communication Sciences.

DURATION OF PROGRAMME

**46 months**

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ADMITTED SINCE INCEPTION

**31**

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE GRADUATED

**20**

## BENEFICIARIES BY GENDER

20



11



## NUMBER OF THESES WRITTEN SO FAR

20



## INVESTMENT BY BMBF SO FAR

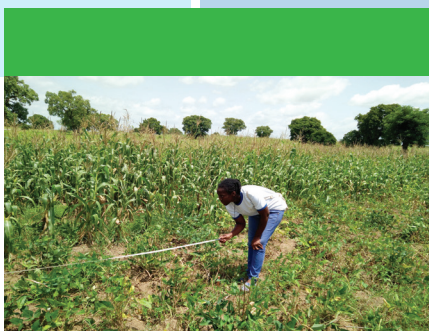
€2,198,717

### Investment breakdown per each batch:

First and Second  
batches:  
(November 2011 to  
February 2016):  
€ 1,000,000

Third batch  
(March 2016 to  
September 2019):  
€ 403,130

Fourth batch:  
(September 2019  
to date )  
€ 795,587



## VISION

WASCAL seeks to become one of Africa's leading institutions in the provision of climate and environmental services in and for West Africa.

## OUR MISSION

WASCAL seeks to provide information and knowledge at the local, national and regional levels to its West African member countries to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change. We do this through Capacity Building support to young West African Scholars in fields of natural and social sciences and by strengthening West African universities and climate service departments in WASCAL member countries. We combat climate change and improve livelihoods.

## Contact Address

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