WASCAL capacities 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.

INVESTMENT BY BMBF SO FAR

€2,138,414

INVESTMENT BY BMBF SO FAR

BENEFICIARIES BY GENDER

19

12

NUMBER OF THESES WRITTEN SO FAR

20

CONTACT ADDRESS

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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 solutions 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

Even though Africa is the most vulnerable continent to the impacts of climate change, constraints exist in availability of skilled manpower, training and research facilities, institutional capacity to coordinate activities related to climate change and lack of appropriate policies. Given the fact that climate change management (adaptation and mitigation) strategies require an integrated, interdisciplinary and multi-sectorial approach, the Doctoral Programme in Climate Change and Energy
is created at Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey (Niger) in the framework of the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) to prepare the next generation to address the energy challenges of adaptation and resilience to climate change in West Africa. The program interdisciplinary approach will allow a better understanding of present-day energy infrastructures in the sub-region, their strength and weaknesses, energy policies, practices in a changing climate context and the search for sustainable solutions.

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

- Science of Climate Change
- Conventional and Renewable Energy
- Remote Sensing and SIG
- Research methodology and Challenges
- Mathematical and Tools for Climate sciences and energy
- Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation

HOST UNIVERSITY

The University Abdou Moumouni (UAM), runs this Doctoral Research Programme, which until 2019, was ran at the Master’s level. It is a non-profit public higher education institution located in Niamey that offers courses and programmes leading to officially recognized higher education degrees such as bachelor, master, and doctorate degrees in several areas of study. The University is named after former Professor Abdou Moumouni, first physicist of the region, pioneer in renewable energy (solar) since the 70’s. He was one of the first president of the university created in 1971. UAM employs more than 400 lecturers and professors, 419 Administrative and Technical Personnel and involves more than 27000 students. This makes it the largest and most acknowledged University in the country.

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 analyze the threats and risks to society or communities to the impact of climate change.
- Synthesize knowledge regarding integrated management strategies to climate change effects, specifically to improve human security.
- Prepared background document and policy notes that offer options to deal with climate change.
- Assisted communities in dealing with climate change by adaptation and mitigation.

DURATION OF PROGRAMME

46 months

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ADMITTED SINCE INCEPTION

31

NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE GRADUATED

20

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

- Burkina Faso
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Mali
- Ghana
- Niger
- Cote d’ivoire
- The Gambia
- Benin
- Togo

WASCAL