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**

Scientific and anecdotal evidence of climate change in the recent history of West Africa has been one of increased desertification with the Sahara Desert gradually claiming the Sahel sub-region and continuing downwards towards the grass lands of West Africa. The great rivers of West Africa (the Senegal, the Niger, the Volta, and the Gambia) and Lake Chad, have lost 25% to 40% of their capacity due to evaporation and increased agriculture and domestic demands. On the opposite scale is increased flooding of West
Africa with its attendant destructive forces sweeping away valuable vegetation, habitats, ecosystems, soil, infrastructure and homes, and leaving death and destruction. The years 2008 and 2009 saw floods of epic proportions sweeping the region leaving destruction estimated in the billions of dollars. Most of the population of Africa already experiences a variety of stresses and shocks (the latter being COVID-19) on a regular basis. West Africa therefore faces an urgent need to develop effective adaptation and mitigation strategies related to climate change through the design of appropriate science-based policies.

The Doctoral Research Programme in Climate Change Economics (CCEcon), led by the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD), in the framework of the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), focuses 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. The programme also develops strong synergies with other universities involved in the WASCAL Graduate Studies Programme (GSP).

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

**Provide an integrated approach to climate change issues**

**Promote an operational approach to knowledge in the field of climate change through case studies**

**Develop strategies for better technological absorption in the area of the Green Economy**

**Analyze economic causes of climate change (development strategies, energy pricing and policy)**

**Analyze the stake of multilateral negotiations and international strategies to deal with climate change**

**HOST UNIVERSITY**

The University Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) in Dakar, runs this doctoral programme since 2012. It is the oldest university in francophone African countries. It has students from 44 different nationalities from all parts of Africa. Alongside its six faculties, the University hosts a variety of specialized schools, mainly in the area of journalism, environment, engineering, and public health. UCADs faculty of Economics and Management is considered a centre of excellence for sustainable economic development studies in Africa. UCAD is a focal point of the “Programme de troisième cycle inter-universitaire en Economie (PTCI)”, that
is a graduate programme in economics, a coordinated programme among Universities and research centers of 18 francophone African countries. It was implemented in 1994 and by now has significantly provided universities and governments with highly trained people.

**BENEFICIARIES SO FAR (2012-2020)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>40 West African students</th>
<th>Full scholarship scheme: accommodation, tuition, travel, and cost of research.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| **29 graduated** | 2012 – 2019 |

| **11 students in 4th batch** | admitted in 2019 | completion in 2022 |

**COUNTRY BREAKDOWN OF BENEFICIARIES SO FAR**

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

**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 focuses 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 the programme develops strong synergies with other universities involved in the WASCAL Graduate Studies Programme.
**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.

**Investment by BMBF so far**

€3,035,465

Investment breakdown per each batch:

- **First and Second batches**: (November 2011 to February 2016): €1,493,627
- **Third batch**: (March 2016 to September 2019): €712,880
- **Fourth batch**: (September 2019 to date): €828,958

**Number of theses written so far**

29

**Beneficiaries by gender**

- Male: 29
- Female: 11

**Contact Address**

DIRECTOR OF CAPACITY BUILDING DEPARTMENT:

Prof. Daouda Kone

WASCAL Headquarters,

Accra.

Email: capacitybp@wascal.org

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**BENEFICIARIES BY GENDER**

29
11

**NUMBER OF THESES WRITTEN SO FAR**

29

**INVESTMENT BY BMBF SO FAR**

€3,035,465

**INVESTMENT BY BMBF SO FAR**

First and Second batches: (November 2011 to February 2016): €1,493,627

Third batch (March 2016 to September 2019): €712,880

Fourth batch: (September 2019 to date): €828,958

**NUMBER OF THESES WRITTEN SO FAR**

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