

# WASCAL BULLETIN

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## WASCAL AND KfW SIGN MOU TO COMMENCE €7 MILLION COMPETENCE CENTRE



WASCAL has signed a financing agreement with KfW for the construction of the new Competence Centre in Ouagadougou. The signing ceremony took place at the premises of the Competence Centre in Ouagadougou. The signing of this contract was a historical moment, for it is an important prerequisite for the construction of the building. The Financing Agreement, amounting to € 7 million Euros is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The agreement was signed by the Executive Director on behalf of WASCAL, and Mrs. Verena Le Chuiton on behalf of KfW. The Executive Director of WASCAL Dr. Moumini Savadogo indicated that the ceremony was

the results of a long process of relationship building. "The construction of the Competence Centre is proof of a strong commitment, testimony of a sustainable cooperation between Germany and Africa in the fight against the harmful effects of climate change and in the promotion of renewable energy. It symbolizes the will of the Federal Republic of Germany and the West African countries to build a solid and sustainable partnership" he said. Mr. Nils Wortmann, the chargé d'affaires of the German Embassy in Burkina Faso, expressed delight about the successful path WASCAL was charting together with BMBF. [Read More](#)

## INVESTMENTS INTO SCIENCE AND EDUCATION ARE KEY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - DR KARSTEN HESS, BMBF



Dr. Karsten Hess, Head of Division, Global Climate Change in Research and Biodiversity at the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), major funder of WASCAL has stated that investments into science and education are key to sustainable development, and that BMBF was

investing cautiously in the capacity development of WASCAL students specially to increase their chances on the job market as well as contributing towards the mitigation and adaptation of Climate Change. Dr. Hess was speaking at the official kick-off of the fifth batch of WASCAL Graduate Studies Programme in Climate Change where 110 doctoral students and 22 master's students, totaling 132 students received full scholarships to pursue PhD and master's programmes in Climate Changes across 12 universities in 11 countries within the sub-region. They will have the opportunity to visit Germany as part of their academic research. The hybrid event took place online and live at the University

of Cape Coast, Ghana, where francophone students are provided with English proficiency programme to enable them to have a successful programme. It is worth noting that, anglophone students are also sent to the University of Lomé, Togo for French proficiency programme. Dr. Hess called on the students to realize the challenges of Climate Change as one of the most pressing issues currently, especially for politics, science, and practice in Africa in particular, and the world at large. He called on the students to take collective action to make the difference. "We know that we have to make a difference today so that next generations will have a sustainable future in the world of tomorrow. For us this means we must take actions, everyone with each individual skills and opportunities." He stressed.

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## WASCAL DEEPENS TIES WITH UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

WASCAL Graduate Studies Programme Directors, led by Prof Daouda Kone, Director of Capacity Building Programme, paid a courtesy call to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana, Prof. Johnson Nyarko Boampong as part of the official kick-off ceremony of the 5th Batch of WASCAL Scholarship Programme with funding from BMBF where 132 West Africans have been offered full scholarship to pursue diverse Climate Change programmes at the PhD and master's levels. The University of Cape Coast and WASCAL have enjoyed an uninterrupted relationship since the inception, Ten years ago, as the English Language Proficiency Centre for all Francophone students under the WASCAL programme.

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## WASCAL ADMITS 132 WEST AFRICAN CLIMATE CHANGE STUDENTS INTO BMBF FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME



The WASCAL Capacity Building Programme has officially welcomed its 5th batch of West African scholars in Climate Change for the 2021/2022 academic year with funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Speaking at the kick-off ceremony in Ghana on the University of Cape Coast campus, the director of Capacity Building Department, Prof Daouda Kone, congratulated the students and challenged them to ensure that they have become ambassadors of West Africa's fight against Climate Change. He journeyed the students through the expectations of the programme and the criteria used to select the successful candidates. Dr. Karsten Hess, Head of Division, Global Climate Change in Research and Biodiversity at BMBF expressed delight about the growth of the WASCAL programme and the enormity of impact made over the years through the

BMBF-WASCAL partnership. He expressed confidence that the future looked bright with the quality of future scientists being trained annually. He congratulated the students and asked them to make the most of the opportunities at their disposal. Professor Benjamin Kofi Nyarko, senior lecturer at the University of Cape Coast and WASCAL facilitator of the language proficiency, in his welcome address, emphasized the quality training the students continue to receive over the years, and called on all students to cherish the opportunity WASCAL offers. In all, 110 doctoral students and 22 master's students, totaling 132 students will be pursuing 12 programmes in various Climate Change areas in West Africa. They will have the opportunity to visit Germany as part of their academic research.

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## WASCAL ENGAGES COP 26 PARTICIPANTS IN CLIMATE CHANGE, MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABILITY



WASCAL, represented by Dr. Safietou Sanfo, Regional Thematic Coordinator-Rural-Urban and Cross border Migration in West Africa from the WASCAL Competence Centre joined other speakers via an online symposium on “Understanding the challenges of Climate Change, Migration and Sustainability: the contribution from African Universities”, at the just ended COP 26 in Glasgow. The symposium which was jointly organized by CC-MAIN, and the Research and Transfer Centre

“Sustainability and Climate change Management (FTZ-NK)” of the Hamburg University of Applied sought to share information on research contributions of various African institutions on poverty, migration, integration and sustainability. Dr. Safietou engaged participants on issues pertaining to Climate Change, adaptation, migration and sustainability in West Africa through The highlights of her presentation touched on the existence of a complex relationships between climate and environmental drivers, changes and migration, the important increase of Rural – Urban and Cross border migration in West Africa, the diversified key drivers of migration which includes environmental as well as climatic aspects such as climate extremes events, deforestation, land degradation, and soil productivity, socio-economic factors of migration such as demographic pressure, land availability, land tenure insecurity, poverty trap and food insecurity, conflicts, political instability, terrorist attacks, and the fact that migration is a coping strategy, an insurance against climate and economic hazards. [Read More](#)

## WASCAL AND IUCN TO VALIDATE THE RED LIST OF ECOSYSTEMS

As part of the ongoing Partnership Regional on Water and Environment in Central and West Africa (the PREE Project), a validation workshop of the Red List of Ecosystems in the Chari/Logone, Mono, Inner Niger Delta and Fouta Djallon River basins, has been organized by WASCAL and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at the Competence Centre in Ouagadougou.

Discussions focused on the assessment indicators, the quality of the data collected, and the level of threat of the different ecosystems. The PREE project is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and implemented by IUCN/PACO in collaboration with partners including WASCAL. The project aims to strengthen the resilience of natural ecosystems in local communities in the river



and lake basins of West and Central Africa. WASCAL is responsible for coordinating scientific activities for the establishment of the Red List of Ecosystems (LRE) in the Chari/Logone, Mono, Inner Niger Delta and Fouta Djallon Massif basins.

## DISCUSSING THE MIGRATION AND TRANSLOCALITY IN WEST AFRICA PROJECT



The Project Team of WASCAL's Migration and Translocality in West Africa has held a working session to further strategize to achieve the project goal, which seeks to better understand rural-urban and cross-border migration, the resulting growth of urban agglomerations and the interlinkages of these phenomena with environmental changes in West Africa. As Coordinator for Burkina Faso, Prof. Georges Compaoré presented the research project entitled: Translocal Migration in Burkina Faso: Characteristic, Practical Motivations, and Impacts on Development. The discussions included rural-urban migration, identification of the determinants of translocal migration, practical characteristics, and processes of translocal migration, assessment of the impacts of rural-urban interrelationships on the environmental, economic, social, cultural, and infrastructural context,

and identification of the governance challenges of translocal migration in Burkina Faso. There were also discussions with focus on the questionnaires and the interviews to be conducted, migration itineraries, the reasons for migration and their impacts on livelihoods, and potential climate services that could be produced by the project results. Other participants at the workshop included; Dr. Stefanie Wehner, MiTra-WA Project Coordinator at the University of Passau, and Dr. Safietou Sanfo, Thematic Coordinator "Migration and Translocality in West Africa" of WASCAL. MiTra-WA Project is a West African- German partnership initiative which uses a trans-local livelihood and mobility approach that allows to capture and analyze the complex migratory movements and cross-spatial interactions of individuals, households and communities that are typical for West Africa.

## 1ST BATCH OF WASCAL SCHOLARS IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND MARINE SCIENCE GRADUATE



The 1st Batch of Master'S Students in Climate Change and Marine Science held it graduation ceremony in Cabo Verde. The students have been commemorated and celebrated for their successful achievements that paved ways for new challenges in addressing climate

change issues as far as marine science is concerned in their respective countries. It is indeed a great honour for WASCAL Cabo Verde to celebrate the culmination of a great journey, a challenge, a mutual learning that made young scientists from other West African countries to join the programme. Speaking on behalf of students, Samuel Ayim a newly graduated student said, "My goal is to use scientific knowledge to train ordinary citizens and policy makers." The graduation ceremony was attended by members of the institution and key partners namely, the Dean of ISECMAR, Dr. Henrique Rendal, the Rector of the UTA, Dr. Raffaella Gozzelino, and the Head of the Research Unit: Physical Oceanography of GEOMAR - Germany, Prof. Dr. Martin Visbeck.

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**Mousa Dembele**, Mali - WASCAL Scholar,  
Climate Change and Land Use.

“I am opportune to join WASCAL Programme. I am thankful to BMBF, our funders, for the English proficiency and for the full scholarship programme. It is my wish that BMBF attach us to WASCAL after completing, and a Peer Review Journal to enable us to publish our research works after studies.”



**Khodia Sow**, Senegal – WASCAL Scholar,  
Climate Change and Economics.

“WASCAL’s scholarship programme is the best in West Africa especially with the training in English proficiency for francophones at the University of Cape Coast and French proficiency for Anglophones at the University of Lomé. No course in my country has this package to a scholarship programme.”



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