

WASCAL CLIMATE DAYS

Theme: Academic and non-academic synergy
in combating climate change in Africa:
Implication on University through academic and
non-academic involvement

CALL FOR ABSTRACT

Date: 21-26 November 2022

Venue: WASCAL University of Lomé, Togo

Event type: Hybrid (physical and virtual)

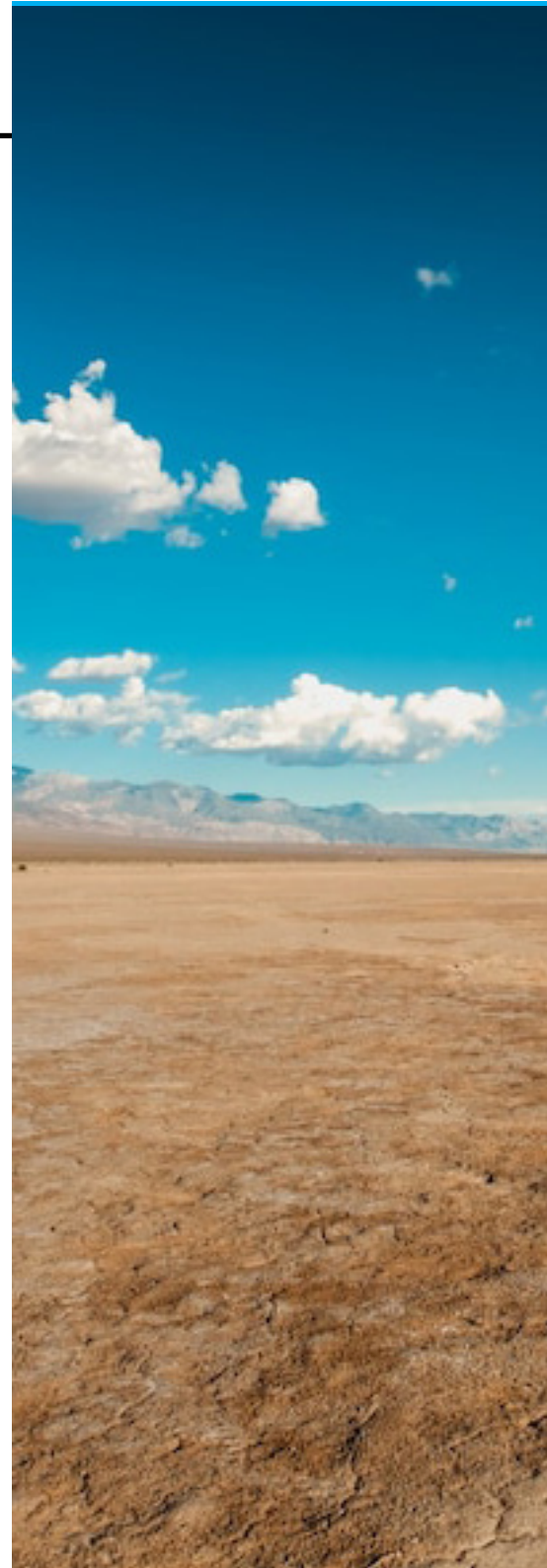
Language: English and French

01 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our time. According to the last IPCC report, our chances of successfully coping with negative impacts of climate change are narrowing and we need to approach the situation through “now or never” angle. Not only the frequency of climate disasters has increased, but also our very basic means of subsistence are threatened by climate change through the impact on agricultural systems. In this situation those who have less capacity of adaptation are the most impacted by the variabilities and a large number of those people live in Africa. Communities in West Africa are part of the most vulnerable in this context. Until recently, most scientists who are the producers of

knowledge in climate science have been working disconnectedly from communities or the beneficiaries. This makes very difficult the translation of knowledge generated into real service for communities on the ground. To combat climate change, it is crucial that scientists work in synergy with decision makers, civil society and all other stakeholders.

The West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) is established in 12 universities in 11 West African countries by the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in collaboration with the member countries. One of the objectives of WASCAL is to provide specific climate services to the countries based on local and regional challenges. Moreover, WASCAL intends to support ECOWAS in implementing the Paris Agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals through 3 pillars: (1) Research on Climate Change, (2) Climate and environmental services delivery and (3) Capacity building through a Graduate studies Programme (GSP) and In-service training. The collaboration between the scientific community and implementation institutions is the major challenge in mitigating and adapting to climate change. There is a need to strengthen the synergy between all the actors in order to facilitate knowledge dissemination to the end-users.



02 Objectives of the climate days

- i. Improve interdisciplinary, inter-professional and community-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation
- ii. Improve the cooperation between climate scientists, decision makers, and civil society
- iii. Contribute to co-constructing science-based decision making for more resilient societies
- iv. Elaboration of short courses to train professional and more awareness

03 Expected results

- i. Climate change professionals and scientist of different backgrounds work together to derive adaptation and mitigation strategies that are suitable to African countries
- ii. Cooperation between climate scientists and decision makers is strengthened in African countries
- iii. Co-development of science-based decision making toward climate change adaptation and risk reduction in African countries
- iv. Finalization of short training courses by WASCAL GSP Directors

04 Expected deliverables

- i. Conference proceedings
- ii. Report with recommendations including List of participants
- iii. Twelve short programme developed base on the curricula of WASCAL GSPs

05 Main thematics of the WASCAL climate Days

The communications on the following thematics will be in a language easily accessible to non-scientific audience

- i. Climate change services and impacts for African countries
- ii. State of the art: current knowledge on the climate projections, impacts and risks
- iii. What drives the climate change policy-making in Africa? What are the drawbacks of the process and what can be done to improve the process of policy making in Africa?
- iv. Panel discussion: Is energy crisis in Europe and in the world going to help for energy transition away from fissile fuel?

- v. Disaster risks management in Africa
- vi. Biodiversity and ecosystem decline in Africa
- vii. Agricultural impact of climate change and adaptation strategies for Africa
- viii. Role of land use change on climate change in Africa
- ix. What short courses can support climate change professionals in combating climate change?

06 Participants

- i. Climate change scientist working in African context
- ii. Local and central government agent in charge of climate change in Africa
- iii. Professionals of the private sector and NGOs in charge of policy implementations
- iv. Researchers
- v. Doctoral students
- vi. Industries
- vii. Civil society

07

Eligibility

Communications related to adaptation and mitigation to climate change are eligible for the WASCAL Climate Days. The communications can be from scientists and non-scientists.

08

Submission and communication

All participants who are interested in giving communications or presenting a poster can send their abstract of a maximum of 200 words by email to wascal.days2022@gmail.com. For scientist, the abstract should highlight the objective, the methodology and results. Each candidate will state if he/she wants to present a poster or an oral presentation.

3RD OCTOBER, 2022

Start of Submission Date

7TH NOVEMBER, 2022

Submission deadline

The notifications of the acceptance of the abstract will be done gradually as the applications come in. The duration of a poster presentation is 5 min followed by 10 min questions and answers. The oral presentation lasts 10 min with 10 min questions and Answers.

The participation fee : 15,000 FCFA for all the participants.

09 Publication

The abstract book of all the communications will be shared with all the participants.

The papers presented will be peer-reviewed and published in a proceeding in "Journal de la Recherche Scientifique de l'Université de Lomé".

Participants who would like their papers to be published should send the full paper latest 28 February 2023.