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# WASCAL climate news

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**WASCAL in retrospect: celebrating 10 years; taking stock of the past, the present and the future.** Story on Pg. 8



# WASCAL A Decade - Celebrating 10 Years of Providing Climate Change and Green Hydrogen Solutions in West Africa



WASCAL is delighted to announce the celebration of its 10th anniversary and to showcase its achievements to its West African and global partners. In a statement issued by Prof. Mouhamadou Hassirou, the Chairman of the Governing Board of WASCAL, he articulated the strides and enormous contributions the

organization has made since its inception. “The last 10 years has presented a lot of reasons to be thankful for. Our mandate as a West African Centre of Excellence in combating climate change, land use and promoting sustainable green hydrogen has progressed across the various pillars on which we operate, including, the provision of climate services, research, and capacity building.

Our presence in West Africa, and particularly working with governments and policy makers, has accelerated our climate action for sustainable development in the sub-region. Today, the WASCAL brand has become synonymous to climate change and renewable energy within the sub-region, and beyond. The writings of our successes are boldly written on the walls as a leading actor in combating climate change and improving livelihoods, thanks to the government of Germany through the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), for their financial and technical support since the inception of this organization”. He said.

## WASCAL: West African Science Service Centre Lays Foundation Stone for new Research Building in Mindelo (Cape Verde)

The construction plans are ready, now it's time for excavators & co. On 24 February 2022, the foundation stone was laid for the new WASCAL research and administration building in the port city of Mindelo in Cabo Verde. Here, new seminar rooms, laboratories, offices and space for exchange will be created for the approximately 30 students who are completing the WASCAL Master's programme “Climate Change and Marine Sciences” there. The graduate school programme at the Atlantic Technical University of Cape Verde was launched in 2019 by the Science Service Centre WASCAL and is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). In order to offer students good conditions for their teaching and research, the BMBF is investing around 300,000 euros in the construction and renovation work. The laying of the foundation stone marks the start of the approximately six-month construction of the new building.







## 60 “Masters” for Green Hydrogen from West Africa

With the “International Master’s Programme in Energy and Green Hydrogen” (IMP-EGH), Forschungszentrum Jülich and RWTH Aachen University want to qualify students in West African countries for the future topic of “green hydrogen”. After a kick-off last October in Niamey/Niger, the official starting signal on the German side has now been given in Jülich. The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is funding the two-year course as part of the energy research program “Innovations for the Energy Transition” with eight million euros initially until 2025.

60 students from 15 countries in Africa will be trained on the basis of international standards and best practices.

Jülich and RWTH collaborate within the framework of the Jülich Aachen Research Alliance (JARA) to support the teaching and supervision of the students via online tools and visits to Africa. In addition, the students will spend a semester in Germany to gain practical experience and to write their theses.

## WASCAL and University of Augsburg Build Capacity of 50 West Africa Students



WASCAL’s Competence Centre in Ouagadougou has collaborated with the University of Augsburg, the Laboratoire de Matériaux et Environnement LA.M.E. of the University of Ouagadougou and Telecel Faso to build the capacities of 50 scientists, postdocs, students, from communications companies, research institutions and Universities across the Sub-region on how to derive

climate information data from commercial microwave links (CMLs) to better address climate change impacts in the Region.

The project, “The Improving Rainfall Information and Rainwater Usage for Adapted Agricultural Production under High Climate Variability in Burkina Faso” (AgRAIN) with funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) seeks to improve precipitation monitoring and precipitation forecast for agricultural management decisions in Burkina Faso; optimize the collection and storage of rainwater to reduce the negative effects of the variability of precipitation on agricultural production, evaluate the effectiveness and transferability potential of the developed information and measures using remote sensing technologies.



## Memorandum of Understanding Between WASCAL and UKCEH to Establish Cooperative Climate Change Activities

WASCAL has signed a cooperation agreement with the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH) to strengthen and promote their partnership through research collaboration to establish and implement cooperative Climate Change in various research focused areas.

Through this partnership, WASCAL and UKCEH agree to establish and implement cooperation including, but not limited to, Climate and environmental services, climate modelling and seasonal forecasting, Climate Change adaptation measures, hydrology and water resources management, sustainable land use and agriculture, biodiversity conservation and ecosystems management, environmental monitoring, data management and informatics, assessment, impacts and mitigation of

environmental change, pathways to achieving net zero carbon emission, and development of nature-based solutions.

Other areas of collaboration covered in the agreement include, avenues for WASCAL and UKCEH to put their efforts together to support this initiative by identifying opportunities for bilateral exchange of research scientists, appointment of joint studentships, joint proposals' writing or collaborative research, organizing joint workshops and international conferences, identifying opportunities for the development of collaborative research programmes, resourcing staff exchange and collaborative research programmes and in investigating further funding sources to extend these opportunities.



### Assessing Competencies for the Waste-2-Energy Project in Gyankobaa

The technical competencies of Ghanaian technicians, engineers and supervisors were assessed with regard to the management of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) funded Waste-to-Energy project in Gyankobaa, Ashanti Region.



The successful management of the waste to energy plant depends on the requisite staff who would be handling the day to day running of the plant. This was the background behind the interviews conducted for the positions advertised to find best of the candidate to fill the positions on plant supervisor, engineer, technician and laboratory technician. The candidates had a practical and theoretical session of their interviews at the workshop of Kumasi Technical University in Kumasi Ghana.



## WASCAL Donates Three Automatic Hydro Sensors to the Gambia with Support from BMBF



The WASCAL Competence Centre has donated three automatic hydro sensors to the government of the Gambia to help facilitate data collection and sharing and utilization for research, education, capacity building and the provision of hydrological services for the country.

In his address, Honourable James Gomez, the Minister of Fisheries and Water Resources, on behalf of the President of the Gambia, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to BMBF and WASCAL for the donation of the equipment.

“With this donation, the Ministry of Water Resources will be able to increase the accuracy of forecast and he reiterates that information and data observations from the sensors will make Gambian Safer and better informed. We are grateful to the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), through

WASCAL for this unprecedented gesture.” He said. Speaking on behalf of WASCAL, Prof. Kehinde Ogunjobi, Director of Research of the Competence Centre, was empathic on WASCAL’s commitment to working with its stakeholders in developing climate services to reduce the negative impacts of climate change in the west African region.

“Climate change has no boundary, there is, therefore, a need to come together as nations and as a region to see what can be done to reduce the effect of climate change in our environment. The donated automatic hydrological sensors by BMBF will generate data for our models, to forecast and predict rainfall variability, temperature to have results in our research output which will helps scientists to redesign policies and programme to help reduce the effect of climate change on the livelihood of our society.”

## Partners on Waste-2-Energy Project Hold Biannual 5th Technical Session

Consortium of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) funded Waste to Energy project has met for its 5th technical session in the Ahanti Region, to discuss activities planned for the first half of the year. The meeting was graced by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Energy and Natural Resources, Prof Elvis Asare Bediako.

The consortium also paid a site visit where the construction of the 400 kW hybrid waste to energy power-plant to treat municipal solid waste in Ghana worth Euro 5.8 million is currently ongoing.





## WASCAL Climate Change and Informatics Scholars Visit Competence Centre



As part of their training, WASCAL scholars pursuing masters in Climate Change and Informatics at the University Joseph Ky- Zerbo of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, visited the WASCAL automatic weather station in Bossa and research facilities at the Competence Centre in Ouagadougou.

The objective of the visit, which was the first of its kind, for the programme, was to combine theory and practice to sharpen students' knowledge. It provided a unique opportunity for the young climate data experts to experience a fully automated weather station

through its different sensors and how it operates in providing instantaneous climate variable.

Exposing on the objective of the visit, Dr. Seyni Salack, senior scientist at WASCAL competence centre, spoke about the importance of the visit

"This visit is to put all the theoretical exposure into practice for the benefit of the students to strengthen their knowledge in climate data operation and management".

## WASCAL Congratulates Senegal for Winning the 2022 African Cup of Nations

WASCAL has congratulated one of its member countries, Senegal, for winning the 2022 edition of the African Cup of Nations.

WASCAL is proud to have you as a member country in combating Climate Change and improving livelihoods in West Africa. Through the partnership between WASCAL and the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD) the void to develop effective adaptation and mitigation strategies related to climate change through the design of appropriate science-based policies in Economics has been filled with the full scholarship programme in Climate Change Economics (CCEcon).

WASCAL also runs the International Master Programme in Energy and Green Hydrogen (IMP-EGH) at the same University - both, with funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

Once again, congratulations to all our Senegalese partners.





## WASCAL'S Graduate Studies Programme Director in Futminna Receives Vice Chancellor's Award



The Director of WASCAL Climate Change and Human Habitat, Prof. Apollonia A. Okhimamhe has received the award of special recognition for distinguished accomplishments in University Governance and for Invaluable Contributions to the High Performance of the Federal University of Technology, Minna between December 2017 and November 2020.

She was presented with the award by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof Abdullahi Bala, during the annual university management retreat of the university.

In a related development, Prof. Okhimamhe was appointed University Orator for the Institution's 30th Convocation Ceremony.

Congratulations to the leadership, WASCAL scholars and alumni of WASCAL-FUTMINNA for this great feat for the award of the exceptional performance in university governance at the Federal University of Technology, Minna (FUTMINNA). A special mention to the GSP Director, Prof. Appollonia Okhimamhe.



### WASCAL Joins NDCs Partnership – A Global Climate Change Coalition as Associate Member

WASCAL has officially been endorsed as an associate member to the NDC Partnership, a global coalition of countries and institutions collaborating to drive transformational climate action through sustainable development and committed to ambitious implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement

and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. As an associate member, WASCAL will have access to all knowledge products and tools shared within the NDC Partnership and opportunities to contribute to their development and review, receive regular updates about NDC Partnership activities and opportunities to engage in global, regional, and country-level activities, and access to information on needs and requests emerging from country partners for assistance.

In welcoming WASCAL to the network, Dr. Pablo Viera, Global Director within the NDC Partnership Support Unit, expressed delight at WASCAL's commitment towards the fight against climate change. "We welcome WASCAL's dedication towards pursuing ambitious climate action and enhancing sustainable development. In joining, you become part of a wider coalition of members and Institutions committed to working together towards these shared goals". He spoke."



## WASCAL in retrospect: celebrating 10 years; taking stock of the past, the present and the future



WASCAL has successfully ended a two-day working meeting in Lomé, Togo, guided by the purposes and terms of references set out to review the past 10 years of the institution's operations, while forecasting reforms that will go a long way to ensure a more sustainable and stabilized institution; identify the challenges it has faced along the way, and to develop medium- and long-term plan for the sustainability of the organization.

The workshop formed part of the WASCAL A DECADE Celebrations week in Lomé, Togo, where the official signing for the commencement of WASCAL took place in February 2012 between 10 West Africa countries and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Executive Director of WASCAL was emphatic about the goodwill WASCAL has begun to attract due to its enormous contributions towards the provision of Climate Change solutions in West Africa.

While congratulating all international and external stakeholders for contributing their quota towards the success stories of WASCAL, he admonished them to continue pushing towards the future and sustainability of the organization. "We are here today to celebrate 10 years of providing empirical solutions to West Africa in research, service provision and capacity building in Climate Change. We must be proud of what we have achieved, and I am convinced that we shall be guided by the stock we are taking at this institutional review, so we can build a stronger institution" he said.



## BMBF invests up to 11 million euro to support research activities at WASCAL

The WASCAL Research Action Plan WRAP2.0, valued at 11 million euros, with funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of Germany, and made up of six main research projects, selected under a comprehensive consultation with partners at the local, national, and regional levels has been launched at the WASCAL Competence Centre, Ouagadougou.

It aims at building resilient socio-economic landscapes, conducive to sustainable development, which in turns requires synergy of action between scientists and policy makers through, among others, the generation of scientific data and the provision of reliable climate information. That also entails that much more attention should be given to climate change research and climate services in respect to their cardinal role in building the capacity of states, policy makers and other key actors involved in climate risk management.

The Minister of Higher Education Research and Innovation of Ouagadougou, who chaired the ceremony, appreciated the active collaboration between WASCAL and its partners, in the joint effort to fight Climate Change in West Africa through the implementation of WRAP2.0.

## Bridging the Gap Between Academic and Practicals: WASCAL Scholars from KNUST on Study Visit to Competence Centre



to enrich their topics with the ultimate goal of contributing to the fight against the adverse impacts of climate change in West African countries.

Commenting on the objective of the visit, Prof. Forkuo said: “this is to allow students to seek advice, guidance and support from the scientists of the WASCAL Competence Centre to enrich their topic in the view of delivering high quality thesis with added values to the mitigation strategies against climate change in the sub region.”

As part of their training, the 5th Batch of PhD students in WASCAL Climate Change and Land Use from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, paid a study visit to the WASCAL Competence Centre. This follows six months of classroom lectures at the Graduate School Programme at KNUST, Kumasi in Ghana.

The objective of the visit was for the students to present their research proposals to the scientists at the Competence Centre, seek advice and guidance

The students were also given a guided tour of research facilities namely the High-Performance Computer (HPC) and the geographic information system GIS and Remote Sensing Laboratory. They also benefited from experts’ explanations on how the facilities operate in terms of data storage and management, capacity building trainings of scientists, students and consultants and remote accessibility of the HPC data for modelers across the region. In all, 11 proposals were thoroughly presented by students to scientists and fruitful comments and suggestions were provided.



## 10 Years of Building a Climate Change Centre of Excellence: WASCAL Celebrates Achievements in Lomé



WASCAL has celebrated ten years of combating Climate Change, improving livelihoods, and promoting clean and sustainable renewable energy in West Africa. The celebrations of WASCAL A DECADE was held on 27th of May in Lomé. It was an opportunity for WASCAL to highlight progress made so far, including ongoing activities and the challenges for the next ten years.

Elaborating on the theme of WASCAL A Decade: The Making of a Climate Change Solution Provider in West Africa, Dr. Moumini Savadogo, Executive Director of WASCAL, pointed out the progress WASCAL had made so far, in its various areas of intervention, including the provision of climate services, research and capacity building. Dr. Moumini Savadogo also stressed on the high-level expertise WASCAL provides for young West African scientists through the establishment of a strong partnership with twelve (12) universities in the sub-region.

“With 542 students that we have enrolled in universities with full funding of their scholarships till date, 273 have already finished their training and are at the disposal of their respective countries’

sub-regions and the whole world. All these students already trained, are today key development actors at the local, regional, and global level”. He spoke.

Regarding the new focus on green hydrogen, Dr Christoph Rövekamp of BMBF strongly recalled the necessity of finding ways of promoting the future in terms of sustainable energy supply for the region. “Green hydrogen Atlas for West Africa opens a new chapter for a sustainable energy supply locally, regionally, and globally. Green hydrogen is key to climate neutrality”.

In respect to the Strategies for Excellence in the fight against Climate Change at the Horizon 2030, the President of the Council of Ministers of WASCAL, Prof. Hamadou Keita, said that the prospective vision of WASCAL to 2030 was an ambitious programme which included, among others, the development of a 2023-2026 business plan with regard to the challenges and the strategic orientation for the next ten years, and the training of about 1000 young scientists in the domain of climate and land use.

## Exchange Among Researchers: Kick-Off Event of German-African Climate Protection Projects in West Africa

On 28 and 29 April 2022, around 60 participants addressed the current research status of the six “WRAP2.0” projects and their role for West Africa. The research programme “WRAP2.0” of the WASCAL Science Service Centre is funded by the BMBF.

In November 2021, the starting signal was given for six German-African collaborative projects in the research programme “WRAP 2.0” (WASCAL RESEARCH ACTION PLAN 2.0). Now, on 28 and 29 April 2022, the kick-off workshop for the projects took place in Burkina Faso with around 60 participants. Scientists from West Africa and Germany, representatives of the WASCAL Science Service Centre and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) came together. The overarching goal of all “WRAP2.0” projects is interdisciplinary research to combat climate change. For the researchers, such kick-off events are important for networking and intensifying professional exchange. The workshop focused on questions such as: “What impact can “WRAP2.0” climate research projects have on the livelihoods and socio-economic development of West African societies?” or “How can research strengthen sustainable development in West Africa?”

Dr Moumini Savadogo, Executive Director of WASCAL, opened the two-day workshop and emphasized: “All WRAP2.0 projects create new knowledge and therefore provide the basis for innovative solutions to counter the consequences of climate change. For the WASCAL Science Service Centre it is essential to develop the new knowledge together, i.e., in intensive cooperation between African and German research institutions.



## Newly Nominated Wascal Scientific Advisory Committee Hold First Meeting in Ouagadougou

Newly appointed Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of WASCAL has held its first meeting at the Competence Centre, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

The objective of the meeting was to present the new orientation strategy of the new SAC, take stock of the on-going WASCAL Research Action Plan (WRAP 2.0) projects and the Graduate School Programme. The meeting also aimed at providing scientific advice and guide to WASCAL in the implementation of its mission to better face the unrelenting negative Climate Change impacts in the region. Prof. Brice Sinsin, the newly appointed SAC Chairman pledged to ensure that the new team will follow up ongoing and prospective projects by the Executive management and his team for the benefit of the region.”

In his official opening remarks to the SAC members, Prof. Ogunjobi, Director of Research at the Competence Centre said: “As we celebrate our 10 years, the current global dynamics invite us to have an objective look in respect to our field of research and capacity building. That is why, in its quest to find solutions to the negative impacts of Climate Change in our Region, WASCAL is trying to strategically slide into new frontiers of Research and Innovation, ranking from e-waste management, artificial intelligence, coastal erosion, marine and blue economy to Renewable Energy.” He spoke.





## Towards the Implementation of Paris Agreement: Independent Global Stocktake Hub Project Launched



The WASCAL Competence Centre, Ouagadougou, has hosted the official inception workshop of the Independent Global Stocktake (iGST) West Africa Regional Hub Project. The objective of the workshop was to officially launch the project and provide foundational information about the ongoing engagements of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the formal GST process through the iGST workstreams.

In his address at the opening ceremony, Dr. Moumini Savadogo, the executive director of WASCAL, highlighted the scope and importance of the project in the fight against climate change. To this end, he indicated that “the iGST initiative is an avenue given to all organizations, scientist, civil society, farmers, and farmers organizations to join efforts to contribute effectively to global climate change actions progress

and support the countries to make increasingly stronger commitments”.

Dr. Brian Mantlana from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR, South Africa), in his opening remark, pointed out the importance of his institution’s partnership with WASCAL and the involvement of stakeholders for ensuring a robust GST that empowers ECOWAS countries to take greater climate action for the benefit of the region.

“We know the significance of the global stock taking process in the context of climate change. We want to ensure that we support and work with WASCAL and ensure that there is broad participation by various stakeholders in West Africa contributing to the global stocktaking”, he said.

## WASCAL and UESDGH Signed MOU to Establish a Mutual Cooperation on Academic and Scientific Research

WASCAL and UESDGH have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, to establish a mutually beneficial relationship built on academic and scientific research, co-operation in areas such as; exchange through teaching partnerships and exchange programmes, development of programmes and academic curricula, research, capacity building, consultancy, scholarships, internships, among others. Prof. Eric NYARKO-SAMPSON, Vice chancellor of the University signed on behalf of the UESDGH and WASCAL represented by Dr. Moumini Savadogo, the Executive Director.



## Citizen Actions on Climate Change and Environment: The Living Lab of West Africa

Kick-off meeting of the Living Laboratory of West Africa (LLWA) under the I-CHANGE project (“Individual Change of HABits Needed for Green European transition, EU-H2020 # 101037193), was held at The WASCAL Competence Centre, Ouagadougou.

The workshop was aimed at establishing the framework of stakeholders, the lab’s eco-citizen research, and actions mechanism to involve citizens in monitoring adverse weather conditions, high temperatures, and air pollution as well as quantifying carbon and environmental footprints intangible and realistic urban frameworks called “Living Labs” (LLs).

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Director of Research, Prof. Kehinde Ogunjobi, representing the executive director of WASCAL, while welcoming all participants to the meeting, stressed the existential threat posed by climate change. “The city of



Ouagadougou, like the other cities of the sub-region, has been facing for several years the adverse effects of climate change in the form of droughts and floods with significant damage to residents, agriculture, and infrastructure, including loss of human lives”, he said.

## BMBF Funded Hybrid Waste to Energy Project Valued at 6.2 Million Euro Commissioned



The Pilot Hybrid Waste to Energy Project valued at 6.2 million euros, with funding from the German government through the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has commissioned by the President of the Republic Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa-Akufo Addo at a ceremony held at Gyankobaa Atwima Nwabiagya in the Ashanti Region.

Speaking on behalf of the president, Dr. Kweku Afriyie,

Minister of Environment, Science and Technology and Innovation (MESTI) expressed delight at the timeliness of the project. “The hybrid waste to energy project has come at a time when major cities like Accra and Kumasi are facing dire challenges in finding final dump site. Indeed, the highlight of this project for me, is the utilization of municipal waste for generation of power which could be the sustainable alternative for curbing the waste management challenges facing metropolitan, municipals, and districts (MMDAs) regions in Ghana.”

He further stated that the project will contribute to Ghana’s climate change strategy. “It is envisaged that this project will help close the communal carbon cycle by developing the value chain of the process with the production and utilization of compost, which would be sold to farmers to boost agriculture and cut down on mineral fertilizer whilst improving the soil structure and also contribute to Ghana’s climate change mitigation strategy as well as to the inclusion of renewable energy”.



## WASCAL Donates Seven (7) Automatic Hydro Sensors to Benin Government



After the Gambia and Cabo Verde, WASCAL, through the Competence Centre has officially handed over seven (7) Automatic Hydro Sensor to the Republic of Benin for the benefit of the Department of Water Resources. The ceremony took place at the conference room of the Department for water resources, Cotonou, Benin.

Speaking on behalf of the Water Resource Agency, the Director General, M. Saïd K. HOUNKPONOU, expressed joy and appreciation to WASCAL and the Federal Ministry of Research and Education (BMBF) for the donation. He also identified the unrelenting support of the two institutions in strengthening the capacities of national water institutions and agencies in addressing climate change data gap” across the West African sub-region.

Prof. Flora Chadare, WASCAL Board member representing Republic of Benin stressed the importance of data to water resource management. “The hydrological data to be generated from the sensors will close the existing data gap in the country and will undoubtedly assist the Agency in achieving its mandate of improving water resources capability in Benin”, she said.

## Germany’s Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock visits University Abdou Moumouni In Niger

During her tour in West Africa, Germany’s Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock paid a visit to the Abdou Moumouni University (UAM) in Niamey, Niger, today.

A 55-member delegation, including Niger’s State Secretary of Education, members of Niger’s and Germany’s parliaments, German and African journalists, as well as experts and industry representatives from Germany accompanied the minister, who attended a conference on climate change and security at the Faculty of Sciences and Technology (FAST) of the Abdou Moumouni University.

Professor Rabani Adamou, pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and International Affairs at Abdou Moumouni and Director of the West African Center for Sustainable Rural Transformation (WAC-SRT) in Niger has coordinated the visit with his team at FAST. During her visit, different research and capacity building projects such as DAAD Centers of African Excellence



(CEGLA, Pro-RUWA and WAC-SRT) and the BMBF-funded project West African Science Service Centre of Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) were introduced.

## WASCAL admitted as an observer in the UNFCCC process

In recognition of its achievements in the fight against Climate Change, WASCAL was admitted to the United Nation's Framework for Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process as an observer organization of twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow.

By this status, WASCAL now has the right to nominate a representative to a UNFCCC conference by applying to each conference for accreditation.

The Executive Director of WASCAL, Dr. Moumini Savadogo expressed delight about the acceptance. "We are delighted to be given this status. It will go a long way to continue discharging our commitment to as a West African international organization combatting climate action and improving livelihoods."

Over the years, WASCAL'S contributions towards the attainment of UNSDG13 on climate action through building capacities of young West African scientists by



providing full scholarship at the masters and doctoral levels, as well as providing unique research and climate services to policy makers and other strategic local, national, regional and global stakeholders has positioned the institution as an international centre of excellence in Climate Change.

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## Three African Institutions Partner to use Artificial Intelligence to tackle Climate Change



The West African Science Services Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) in partnership two other institutions, RUFORUM, an organization made up of African universities working to promote agricultural development and the AKADEMIYA2063, established to expand the portfolio of research and capacity-strengthening for agricultural policy making, are partnering WASCAL to implement the Climate Change AI Hub initiative for the next four years in Africa.

With financial support of Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

(SIDA), the AI hub seeks to build climate change capacity across Africa, including the collection of data and contributing to climate change policy development and harmonization.

The project is intended to create and strengthen the inter-disciplinary collaboration among scientists and institutions in helping fulfil the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action innovation.

At the opening session of a two-day kick-off workshop of the continental network on responsible artificial intelligence initiatives in Accra, Dr Moumini Savadogo, Executive Director of WASCAL, explained that the project was to develop technologies that would help accelerate the implementation of the National Adaptation Plans and the Nationally Determined Contributions of African countries as well as other climate smart agricultural programmes.



## WASCAL Donates Five Automatic Hydro Sensors to Cabo Verde

In its quest to reduce data gaps and improve climate change mitigation, the WASCAL Competence Centre has donated five new set of automatic hydro sensors to the Cabo Verde Agency of Water and Sanitation (ANAS). The ceremony took place on the Campus Ribeira Julião, ISECMAR.

In his address, Mr. Cláudio Santos, Chief Executive of the Cabo Verde Agency of Water and Sanitation (ANAS) expressed his gratitude to WASCAL and BMBF. "This unvaluable donation which will strengthen their network with accurate data and will help better address climate change impacts by bridging the gap of data unavailability". He said.

Speaking on behalf of WASCAL, Dr Moumini Savadogo expressed his appreciation and renewed his acknowledgement to BMBF. "I am elated to see that



the donation of the equipment is parallel with Cabo Verde needs and expectations. We shall continue to support in strengthening the capacities of national water institutions and agencies in addressing climate change data challenges".

### Validation and Dissemination Workshop on H2 Atlas in Nigeria Futminna



At the recent workshop on the Validation and Dissemination of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) funded project on H2Atlas on green hydrogen generation potentials in Nigeria held in Federal University of Technology, Minna (FUTMINNA) the following observations were made:

1. Nigeria has abundant renewable energy potential that can be tapped in an increasing profile to contribute significantly to its energy mix.
2. Solar and Wind energy will play a critical role in the quest for the energy transition.
3. Green hydrogen is trending globally as it is considered the fuel of the future.
4. In Nigeria, green hydrogen is not currently in use

but has potential that can be explored.

5. The potential for the production of green hydrogen in Nigeria is technically and economically viable
6. There is the need for the inclusion of a green hydrogen energy curriculum for tertiary institutions, especially at the undergraduate level.

Watch the media interview on YouTube by Dr. Solomon Agbo , coordinator of H2 Atlas from Forschungszentrum Jülich. and Prof. Appollonia Okhimamhe, Director of WASCAL's Graduate Studies Programme in Climate Change and Human Habitat at the Federal University of Technology, Minna (FUTMINNA),

## COP15, Abidjan: WASCAL Calls for Robust Synergy to Find Alternative Solution to Land Degradation in West Africa



One of the key highlights at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNFCCC) Abidjan Cop15 side event by Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) and partners on “Shaping enabling conditions for sustainable interventions for drought resilience” was the issue of creating a robust synergy amongst stakeholders in the quest to find alternative solution to land degradation through green hydrogen while restoring the already degraded lands through formidable abridging of science-finance policies.

Speaking on the theme, “shaping enabling conditions

for sustainable interventions towards drought resilience in Africa drylands: Intersecting views” the Executive Director of WASCAL Dr. Moumini Savadogo was emphatic about bridging the science-policy-finance gaps in West Africa for sustainable land management for climate resilient. He stated the need for the employment of various strategies in the fight against land degradation in Africa through mitigation and adaptation efforts. He also identified the need for institutions to work together to ensure a cohesive and coherent victory. It was a key moment in the fight against desertification, land degradation and drought. It will build on the findings of the second edition of the Global Land Outlook and offer a concrete response to the interconnected challenges of land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss as we step into the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Dr. Savadogo further elaborated the role of capacity building and the impact of WASCAL in this area in the contribution towards the mitigation and provision of alternative measures to win the battle against land degradation.

## WASCAL and the Republic of Niger Enhance Strategies for Renewable Energy

In order to develop an adequate energy supply strategy, especially in the context of Renewable Energy in Niger, the Ministry of Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Niger, and WASCAL have held a workshop in Niger, with the objective to develop a project model within the framework of Renewable Energy, taking into account the country’s priorities in terms of research, education and energy coverage.

At the opening of the workshop, the General Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Niger Prof. Moussa AG Arya, observed that Niger has a huge untapped Renewable Energy potential. To this, he said, “The country is sunny all year round. The average monthly values observed vary from 5 to 7 kWh/day, and the average duration of sunshine is 8 hours per day. Also, Niger has interesting wind potential in the north of the country with an average wind speed of 5 m/s, while the average speed in the south is about 2.5 m/s. In addition, the



Niger River, an important resource for hydroelectric production, crosses the country over a length of 500 km”.

Dr Bruno Korgo, Renewable Energy Regional Coordinator of WASCAL assured the Republic of Niger of the commitment and strong willingness of BMBF to financially support the project. He also said WASCAL will provide the necessary technical assistance and guidance for a successful development of the project.



## Innovation Systems and Agri-Based Digital Technologies for Improved Agricultural Productivity in Burkina Faso



Pests and diseases (especially in maize, onion, and tomatoes) constitute a major problem to the agricultural sector in Burkina Faso (and the rest of West Africa) and threaten food security in the country.

To contribute to solving the problem of pests and diseases in Burkina Faso, WASCAL, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal and Fishery Resources (MARA) and Afrique Geosciences (a local drone mapping specialist company) had developed a project called PPeDMaS (Precision Pest and Disease Management System based on Multidimensional Big Data) which has been funded as one of the ten (10) projects that received funding through the AGriDI (Accelerating inclusive green growth through agri-based digital innovation in West Africa) initiative.

AgriDI is funded through the ACP Innovation Fund of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) financed by the European Union and

is implemented by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), under its Regional Coordination Unit of the Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF), in collaboration with the University of Abomey Calavi (Benin), Agropolis Foundation (France) and Gearbox Pan African Network (Kenya).

The official inception workshop of the PPeDMaS Project has been held at the WASCAL Competence Centre in Ouagadougou, the main objective of which is to outdoor project and engage relevant stakeholders.

The project aims to deliver a web-based pests and diseases data platform, an early warning web application, an expert advisory system for managing pest and diseases, and a mobile application that will provide immediate solutions to farmers on pests and diseases in maize, onion, and tomato farming systems.

### The Precision Pest And Disease Management System (PPEDMAS) – Workshop

The PPeDMaS – Precision Pest and Disease Management System Workshop was highly successful.

The 4-Day workshop kick started the PPeDMaS Project Drone Mapping Technicians which aims at building capacities of 15 survey technicians and students on drone piloting at the Competence Centre. It is expected that the project will provide solutions to pests and diseases in maize, onion, and tomato farms in up to 15 selected districts in in Burkina-Faso. The project is funded by the European Union through the ACP Research and Innovation fund.





## BMBF Funds 3 Million Euro Green Hydrogen Programme On Solar Pv Power Plants In West Africa

WASCAL, in partnership with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, (BMBF), has officially launched the Project “Optimizing Solar PV for Green Hydrogen Production in West Africa (PV2H)”, coupled with the BIO2H and bioenergy feasibility studies in Burkina Faso, as part of strategies to contribute to the promotion of the development of green hydrogen for an effective fight against climate change.

Dr. Yacouba Savadogo, Technical Advisor, speaking on behalf of the Minister of Environment, Energy, Water and Sanitation appreciated the active collaboration between WASCAL and the sub-region and expressed support for the PV2H project.

“I would like to thank WASCAL, our proud organization, for its extensive expertise and effective action in all areas relating to the issue of Climate Change in the West African region. I can assure you of the unwavering support of my department to make this project a resounding success”. He spoke.

Delivering his welcome address at the launch, Dr. Moumini Savadogo, the Executive Director of WASCAL, stressed on the need to densify the development of Green Hydrogen for effective fight against Climate Change.

“A shift to more environmentally friendly sources of

energy is more than necessary. Promoting renewable energy is a global emergency and WASCAL has made it a flagship issue in its fight against climate change”. He said.

For Dr. Christoph Rövekamp, Head of the Division, Energy and Hydrogen Technologies at the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the launch of these 3 energy projects, is opening a new chapter in scientific cooperation among countries with a view to jointly solving concrete and practical problems with research, innovation and education.

“The development of Green Hydrogen calls for strong cooperation among partners from science, business and policy. With our research, we pave the way for a clean, safe and affordable energy supply, a better environment, more quality of life, new income opportunities and new jobs. He Spoke.

WASCAL’s Renewable Energy Coordinator, Dr Bruno Korgo said “the current climate context requires the whole humanity to switch to alternative energy sources such as hydrogen. “Hydrogen can be utilized in transport, industry, and agriculture. Massive use of hydrogen is an effective way to fight Climate Change and improve livelihoods”. He concluded.



## BMBF Funds 3 Million Euro Green Hydrogen Programme on Solar PV Power Plants in West Africa



The event, which took place in Ouagadougou, was attended by ministers of the Burkina Faso government, members of the diplomatic corps, climate change and green hydrogen experts, researchers, and students. In Africa, people's access to energy is a real challenge that slows down the economic and social development of countries. This situation is particularly true in West Africa where more than 200 million people representing about 60% of the population do not have access to modern energy services. Most countries have low electrification rates, with less than 10% access in rural areas and large disparities between rural and urban areas.

Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research to the tune of almost 3 million Euros, the PV2H project aims at providing a concrete technical response to the negative impact of dust on solar PV power plants and to propose ways to optimize the production of green hydrogen from solar PV systems under the specific climatic conditions of the Sahelian region in West Africa.

The 24-month project is led by WASCAL and Forschungszentrum Jülich, with other partners, including, University Joseph KI-ZERBO, University Abdou Moumouni, SONABEL, Ministry of Environment, Energy, Water and Sanitation Burkina Faso, Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation of Burkina Faso.

## Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony with the University of Mittweida (WASCAL and SASSCAL)

(Video available on our YouTube channel)



## Showcasing Progress in the Production of H2Atlas in West Africa



A two-day Technical West African H2ATLAS workshop was held in Accra, Ghana, to showcase the progress made in the production of the West Africa H2ATLAS and to finalize the Atlas itself.

The workshop was aimed at bringing together experts from the German Research Centre, Forschungszentrum Jülich and a consortium of African research institutions from 15 West African countries to explore the potentials of green hydrogen production from the enormous renewable energy resources within the African continent.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Solomon Agbo, the Project Coordinator, said “The H2ATLAS workshop was designed to give the 15 countries who have worked close to two years a sense of ownership on work done in West Africa, to define the results, bring all participants on the same page and to defend the results submitted to produce the Atlas. All these was done in a transparent manner” He added that West African Countries could get more benefits as they could be exporters of green hydrogen in the future. There was so much potential to produce both hydrogen and electricity, thereby boosting electricity access in West Africa. He also appreciated the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and Project management Agency Jülich (Ptj) for the funding to make this initiative a reality.

Dr. Moumini Savadogo, the Executive Director of WASCAL, mentioned that currently, one of the outcomes of the H2ATLAS project was the capacity being built for 60 students (two students from each country) under the international master's programme on renewable energy and green hydrogen. Hence the respective countries should open their doors for these students upon their return.

The country representatives were delighted to see the results of their hard work and pledged to meet the students from their countries upon return, champion the green hydrogen and be good ambassadors of the project after seeing the atlas results presented.

The workshop was attended by experts from across West Africa and Germany. The H2 ATLAS project is an initiative by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). In this project, the German research Centre Forschungszentrum Jülich partners with a consortium of African research institutions to explore the potentials of green hydrogen production from the enormous renewable energy resources within the African continent. All fifteen ECOWAS countries participated by their national teams which constituted of 5 team members. The project implementation workplan required the national teams to collect as well as validate them national level to develop the Western Africa Atlas





## Standing Together Against the Consequences of Climate Change on the African Continent

Scientific exchange between Mittweida University of Applied Sciences and African Climate Competence network. Climate conference envisioned in Mittweida. Climate change is not a national problem. It is a problem that can only be solved internationally. Some countries in the world are suffering more from the impact of climate change as others. However, in the fight against the impact, which is essential for survival, one should cooperate.

In future, Mittweida University of Applied Sciences will work together with the BMBF-funded African climate competence networks WASCAL (West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use) and SASSCAL (Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management).

High-ranking representatives visited Saxony in June, among them the Executive Directors of WASCAL from Ghana and SASSCAL from Namibia, the Programme Director Gabin Ananou from the German Aerospace Center (DLR), as well as experts from Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso, Namibia and Angola. Representatives of Mittweida University of Applied Sciences, their faculties and the International Office took part in the three-day scientific workshop. Two other German partner institutions were also invited to identify topics and

formats for international cooperation: the University of Würzburg as a partner of WASCAL, represented by Dr. Michael Thiel and Sabine Oppmann, and the International Centre for Water Resources and Global Change (ICWRGC) Koblenz, as a partner of SASSCAL, represented by Luna Bharati.

With the signing of a corresponding Memorandum of Understanding between WASCAL, SASSCAL and Mittweida University on the third day of the workshop, the common goals were fixed in a first document. The document was signed on behalf of Mittweida University of Applied Sciences by the Vice-Rector for Education, Professor Volker Tolkmitt: "No university, no matter how large, can meet the challenges of climate change alone. It will not succeed without strong partnerships. The Memorandum of Understanding opens up new opportunities for us and at the same time commits us to a partnership in two key areas: Research and Capacity Building. We look forward to the next steps, which we believe will lead to fruitful joint research initiatives."

Mittweida University intends to participate in teaching, research and the supervision of doctoral students. Teaching opportunities and student exchanges in graduate programmes as well as joint scientific events are also conceivable. Internships abroad

in Africa for students from Mittweida will be an additional opportunity. Fields where the university is contributing its expertise will be the following among others: Biodiversity and Biohydrogen (Professor Röbbe Wünschiers), Biomathematics, Statistics and Data Analysis, Population Genetics and Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases (Professor Kristan Schneider) and Application of Analysis Methods to Biology and Meteorology (Professor Franka Baaske). The workshop in June also opened up the view of further fields of future cooperation, for example in the area of sustainability communication and AI-supported data analysis.

### The African climate competence networks



The initiatives WASCAL (West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use) and SASSCAL (Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management) have been researching solutions to the challenges of climate change in Africa and training young scientists together with German research institutions for 10 years. They do this with a focus on different graduate and research centres in eleven partner countries in Western Africa and five in Southern Africa. The focus is on topics such as sustainable land use, water supply and food security. The centres are largely funded by Germany through the BMBF.

### First activities

The workshop in Mittweida was another important step on the path to cooperation. The beginnings date back a year: Dr Gabin Ananou from the project management agency from the German Aerospace Center had

suggested the project during a panel discussion on the prospects for youth in Africa at the International Week in June 2021 at Mittweida University. A first discussion with WASCAL took place online shortly afterwards in September 2021. Many more followed.



The most recent workshop in Mittweida has already been followed by the first return visits from Mittweida to Africa: Professor Kristan Schneider and Dr Moumini Savadogo, Executive Director of WASCAL, met again in Ghana at the end of July. The two exchanged views on the connection between climate change and infectious diseases and on how the statistical know-how from Mittweida can flow into specific activities of WASCAL.

A week earlier, the deputy chancellor of the university, Ulrich Pietsch, visited, among others, the University of Cape Coast in Ghana and, of course, WASCAL. There he discussed with Dr. Moumini Savadogo and Professor Daouda Kone, Director Capacity Building Department, how the mutual exchange of academics and students can be organised – and not remain a one-way street, for example by having German students and doctoral candidates travel to Africa to work on research projects on site.

### Prospects: Climate conference in June 2023

At the most recent meeting in Mittweida, the partners were already preparing the next one: a joint climate conference with WASCAL and SASSCAL at Mittweida University of Applied Sciences in June 2023. The first scientists from WASCAL and SASSCAL are to give guest lectures in Mittweida in the coming winter semester. Young scientists will also spend time in Germany as part of their WASCAL scholarship in Mittweida.



## The Living Lab of West Africa Calls Sustainable Living Environment in Ouaga

Each year, thousands of households in the city of Ouagadougou are affected with flooding. These recurrent floods are the result of clogged drainage systems in the city. In view of the situation in recent years, the I-CHANGE project, through the West African Living Lab (LLWA) in collaboration with the municipality of Ouagadougou, has organised a 21-sanitation-day in the form of community service.

“I appeal to all, civil servants, individuals, associations, NGOs, and civil societies, to combine efforts to encourage and sensitise citizens through such actions for a healthy and sustainable living environment” he said.

According to the third Vice-President of the special delegation of the municipality of Ouagadougou, Mamounata Ouédraogo, the I-Change Project comes exactly at the right time within the context of the current government policy on sanitation.



“The municipality of Ouagadougou is committed to supporting any initiative that is in favour of the well-being of all Burkinabè. That is why we are standing with WASCAL this morning. I would like to seize this opportunity to launch an appeal to all Burkinabè to undertake citizen initiatives like this one, so that we can

The purpose of this community service was to create more awareness on reducing flooding risks and improving the living conditions of the citizens of Ouagadougou, through the cleaning of drainage canals along Bassawarga Avenue.

together make our environment clean,” she said. Some of the items presented to the municipalities included shovels, masks, rakes, etc.

Speaking during the launch of the activity, Prof. Kehinde Ogunjobi, Director of Research at the WASCAL Competence Centre, commended the I-change team for the gesture and appealed to citizens for a positive behavioural change for a better management of waste.

The I-CHANGE project deals with the challenge of engaging and promoting the active participation of citizens to address climate change, sustainable development, and environmental protection. The I-change project is funded by the European Union, within the framework of the European Green Deal, the European Pact for climate, and the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 with WASCAL and CIMA Research foundation as Lead partners.



## Optimizing Solar PV for Green Hydrogen Production in West Africa (PV2H)

In Africa, people’s access to energy is a real challenge that slows down the economic and social development of countries. This situation is particularly true in West Africa where more than 200 million people representing about 60% of the population do not have access to modern energy services. Most countries have low electrification rates, with less than 10% access in rural areas and large disparities between rural and urban areas.

Within the framework of the Go Green Go Africa Hydrogen Initiative, WASCAL in partnership with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, is organising an official ceremony has launched the Project “Optimizing Solar PV for Green Hydrogen Production in West Africa (PV2H)”, coupled with the feasibility study of the BIO2H study. The ceremony is under the patronage of the Minister in charge of Environment, Energy and Water Resources of Burkina Faso.

Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research to the tune of 2 164 051 Euros, the PV2H project aims at providing a concrete technical response to the negative impact of dust on solar PV power plants and to propose ways to optimize the production of green hydrogen from solar PV systems under the

specific climatic conditions of the Sahelian region in West Africa.

The project is an experimental investigation on the optimization of large-scale solar PV power plants with a view to providing a technical answer to the question of dust cleaning in the perspective of production of green hydrogen from solar energy in the Sahel region focusing on the case of the 33 MW Zagtouli photovoltaic solar power plant, located on the western outskirts of the city of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso.

With regard to the BIO2H-BURKINA (Sector Assessment for Production of Green Hydrogen from Bioenergy in Burkina Faso), the main objective of the study is to take stock of the technologies, use of the biodigester and to assess the potential for multi-scale production of green hydrogen in Burkina Faso.

The 24-month project is led by WASCAL and Forschungszentrum Jülich, with other partners, including, University Joseph KI-ZERBO, University Abdou Moumouni, SONABEL, Ministry of Environment, Energy, Water and Sanitation Burkina Faso, Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation of Burkina Faso.





## Writing the Success Story of Informatics for Climate Change: 2nd Batch of WASCAL Scholars Graduate

Eleven West African students have successfully graduated from the WASCAL Graduate Studies scholarship programme in Informatics for Climate Change at the University Joseph Ki Zerbo of Ouagadougou. The master's programme, which was instituted to fill the gap in capacity building for a critical mass of experts with adequate scientific computation and climate data management skills in West Africa, had its first batch of students graduate in 2020.

The president of the university, Prof. Jean François Kobiané, challenged them to be the solution to West Africa's data collection deficit on Climate Change to better understand the challenges and solve them head-on. "You will contribute further to the pooling of forces in the collection and analysis of climate data in the West African region". He said

The Executive Director of WASCAL, Dr. Moumini Savadogo, was emphatic on the tremendous support and excellent cooperation from the government of Burkina Faso, through the ministry of higher education and research together in developing this master's programme on Informatics for Climate Change.

"Our partnership with the government of Burkina Faso, and with the university in developing this programme has been a very strong one. Today, here we are writing the success story together. As we mark our 10th anniversary as a West African International Climate Change organisation, we are even more excited about the plans to have this master's programme extended to become a doctoral programme soon" He said.

Students representing the graduating scholars assured their availability to serve their countries, institutions and communities, in the fight against the adverse effects of Climate Change in West Africa.

The two-year master's Research Programme on Informatics for Climate change builds climate change expertise of students in a multi-disciplinary and intercultural learning environment. So far, the Master Research Programme in Informatics for Climate Change (MRP-INFORMCC) has churned out 22 scholars from 11 countries.



## WASCAL is Committed to Building Partnerships to Fight the Dangers of Pesticides on Climate Change

The Executive Director of WASCAL, Dr. Moumini Savadogo, has reiterated the organization's commitment to tackling the issue of the challenges pesticides pose to the campaign against climate change in West Africa, as a result of emitting greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide.

Dr. Savadogo outlined WASCAL's commitment over the past decade to tackling issues such as the effects of pesticides on Climate Change through its strong partnership with the Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny here in Côte d'Ivoire.

"As we mark 10 years of combating climate change and improving livelihoods, we look back with high spiritedness on the impact we have made in training more than 50 West African Climate Change scientists in this University Climate Change and Biodiversity.

Continue on page 27

## WASCAL is Committed to Building Partnerships to Fight the Dangers of Pesticides on Climate Change

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These scholars have become ambassadors for protecting species richness, genetic diversity, ecosystems, and ecosystem services for the next generations. Their in-depth understanding of strategies developed by living organisms and ecosystems in the face of climate change is boldly written on the walls in showcasing substantial contribution towards the adaptation of humanity to these changes and towards the conservation of biodiversity under future conditions." He said.

He was speaking at the opening session of the 3rd International Conference on Pesticidal Plants (ICPP3), in Côte d'Ivoire under the theme: "Promoting pesticide plants for sustainable and healthy agriculture." He also challenged the participants to act for the sake of posterity.

"Posterity will not definitely ask us questions if we do not act today. The need to streamline the use of pesticides is very critical. The urgency to intensify the awareness and strengthen partnerships with regulatory agencies and policymakers for checks and balances on pesticide use cannot be delayed." He concluded.

The Director of WASCAL Capacity Building Programme, Prof. Daouda Kone emphasized the urgency in employing the use of well-regulated approaches in solving the pesticide quagmire and its ripple effects on the environment and agriculture to be specific.

The seven-day quadrennial conference attracted some 200 participants from Africa, Europe, America, and Asia, under the auspices of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Côte d'Ivoire.

## REPGAM Concludes Energy Data Collection

The REPGAM project officials have begun data collection and renewable energy profiling of their beneficiary public institutions as preparatory stages to implement the instillations of free, clean, reliable, and affordable renewable energy to public institutions and communities in the country.

The moving delegation visited, assessed, and profile the energy consumption, gaps, and needs of the Gambia Civil Aviation Authority, Banjulinding Upper and Senior Secondary School, St. John's school for the deaf as well as Bakoteh Fish Market.

Dr. Ebrima sonko the deputy director of the project and Suma W. Jadama the communications Consultant of REPGam project in their remarks stated that the project will reduce the country's dependency of fossil fuel as well as complement government's efforts in providing clean affordable and reliable energy supply. Currently, the airport is said to have a capacity of 1000KVA NAWEC transformer which is aging thus the need for new interventions like the REPGAM project to address their energy needs. Officials of Gambia Civil Aviation Authority including Engineering director and his assistant Kabiro Jammeh and Edrissa Jarju noted the timeliness of the project lamenting on energy challenges they faced technically and financially. REPGam's data collectors visited offices, main terminal



building as well as construction sites of the ongoing VVIP lounge at the Banjul International Airport to collect primary data on energy efficiency.

Banjulinding Upper and senior secondary with a student population in thousands under the leadership of Principal Saikou Samusa is a beneficiary of REPGam's free renewable energy project who said the project would enhance teaching and learning in the school as well improve security and safety in the area.

The REPGam project funded by the German's Federal Ministry of Education and Research and implemented by University of the Gambia under the supervision of the ministry of higher education. It is expected to contribute to Gambia government's nationally determined contributions in mitigating climate change through live and livelihood opportunities to citizens.



## The Living Lab of West Africa–Ouagadougou (LLWA) Strengthens the Capacities of its Citizen Scientists on Data Collection Tools

As a follow-up to the kick-off workshop held on 1st March 2022, which led to the establishment of a stakeholders' network, the Living Lab of the City of Ouagadougou has organized a training workshop to train stakeholders on methods and data collection tools to enhance further their involvement in monitoring adverse weather conditions, high temperatures, and environmental pollution.

At the opening ceremony, Prof. Kehinde Ogunjobi, Director of Research, representative of the Executive Director of WASCAL, commended the stakeholders' commitment and substantial involvement in the laboratory's running. He also indicated that the I-change project comes at the right time about the material, human and environmental damage due to climate change.

"It is important to raise citizens' awareness of the effects of climate change and promote a behaviour change for the benefit of our environment. We also must help citizens understand the challenge associated with the Paris Agreement", he spoke.

Participants were trained on data collection tools such as meteo-tracker sensors, real-time flood form (ODK Clients), and the identification of model households using Kobotoolbox.

Participants also discussed issues concerning the implementation plan of the community service, the updated map of waste disposal sites, the distribution



of coloured bins to model households, and the completion of the I-CHANGE stakeholder questionnaire, considering the expectations and contributions of each participant in the running of the Laboratory.

The workshop was attended by stakeholders from the Ouagadougou town hall, civil society organizations, and associations working in water and the environment.

The role of the Living Lab of West Africa – Ouagadougou (LLWA) is to use trans- and inter-disciplinary, participatory, and proactive approaches to better address the heavy rain events, wastes, and urban flash floods in the city of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. The I-change project is funded by the European Union, within the framework of the European Green Deal, the European Pact for climate, and the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, with WASCAL and CIMA foundation as Lead partners.

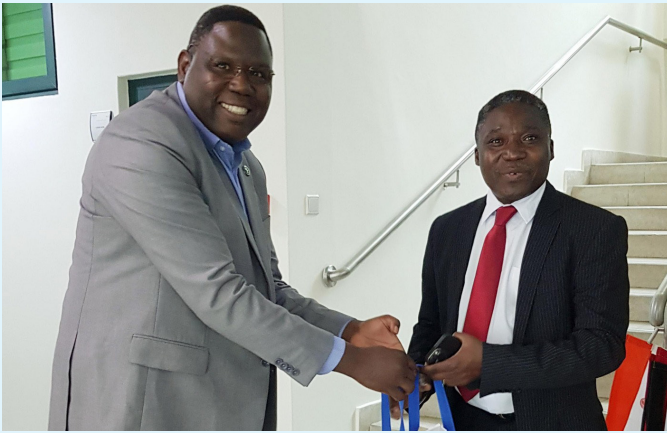
## WASCAL congratulate 1st female Vice Chancellor of FUTA

Congratulations to the 1st Female Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA), Nigeria, Adenike Temidayo Oladiji, and thank you for receiving the WASCAL team. WASCAL is proud to be associated with your noble University, and as we continue our journey together, we look forward to even deepening our already existing fruitful partnership. Wishing you a successful tenure of office.



## CSIR and WASCAL collaboration

To deepen their collaboration with WASCAL, the new Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR GHANA) Director General, Prof. Paul Kinnock Bosu, paid a courtesy call on WASCAL.



## WASCAL Participates in “The Science 6” Organized by the German Embassy at the University of Ghana, Law Faculty

WASCAL is participating in “THE SCIENCE 6: A conversation on the overview of 6 German-Ghanaian Science Projects in Ghana” organized by the German Embassy Accra at the Faculty

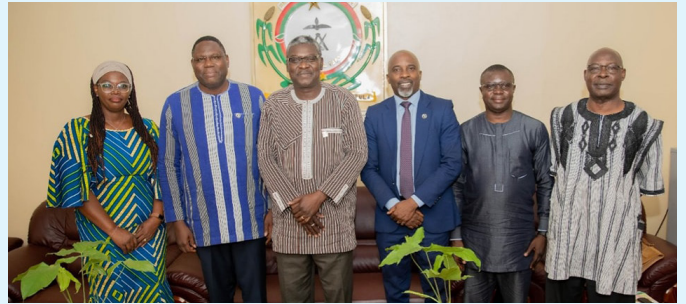


## The vice chancellor of the University Joseph Ki-Zerbo

WASCAL has congratulated the newly appointed Vice Chancellor of the University of Joseph Ki-Zerbo, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Prof. Jean-François KOBIANE. The courtesy call was also to deepen the existing bilateral relationship between the two institutions over the past decade.

The University hosts WASCAL scholarship programme

at the Master’s level in Informatics for Climate Change where 22 West African students have so far benefitted since 2019, with funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany. Congratulations Prof. Kobiane. WASCAL wishes you a fruitful tenure in office.



## WASCAL Scientific Advisory Committee meeting held in Dakar, Senegal

2nd WASCAL Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting has ended in Dakar, Senegal, with a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor of UCAD, Prof. Aly Mbaye, who is also the former Director of the Graduate Studies Programme of WASCAL in Senegal



## The Vice Chancellor of the University Joseph Ki-Zerbo Paid a Courtesy Call to WASCAL in Accra

Vice Chancellor of the Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, Prof. Jean-François KOBIANE paid a courtesy call on WASCAL during his visit to Accra.





## ECREEE executive director paid a courtesy call to WASCAL

To deepen their collaboration with WASCAL, Mr. Jean Francis Semporé, the Executive Director of ECREEE-Ecowas Centre for Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency, used the opportunity on his mission to Accra, to pay a courtesy call to the WASCAL Headquarters.



## Congratulation to Prof. Dr. Gabin Kouevi Ananou



WASCAL congratulates **Dr. Gabin Kouevi Ananou** on the appointment as **Honorary Professor for International Science Management**

By the academic leadership of Hochschule Mittweida, University of Applied Sciences, Germany.

WASCAL is proud of this achievement. Your contribution to the mitigation and adaptation of Climate Change in West Africa has been commendable.

**WASCAL**  
West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use

organized by the  
Federal Ministry of Education and Research

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The logo features a large blue '10' with a circular graphic inside the '0'. The graphic contains a blue cloud with the word 'YEARS' in white, surrounded by a ring of colorful dots. Below the '10' is the text 'WASCAL a Decade' in blue.

# 10 YEARS WASCAL a Decade

## **CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF** Combating Climate Change and Improving Livelihoods

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