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# NEWS ON SASSCAL/WASCAL JOINT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING IN BERLIN

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## AHEAD OF THE WASCAL-SASSCAL MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BERLIN

**WEST** and Southern Africa ministers, responsible for climate change and higher education met in Berlin, Germany from February 21-22, under the invitation and auspices of the Federal German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), as part of activities to climax the decade celebrations of the West African Science Service on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) and the Southern African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted land management (SASSCAL).

The activities lined up for the two-day meeting included a tripartite engagement amongst West and Southern Africa, Ministers and the BMBF. The conversations seek to take stock of the contributions of the various parties, while deepening the existing partnerships towards a sustainable fight against Climate Change.

The ministers also engaged global partners in a networking conference to look at sustainable ways of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 on Climate action. Over 100 stakeholders across the world including government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, policy makers, NGOs, development partners and private sector leaders participated in the two-day event to reflect on the progress made by these institutions and identified areas for further collaboration. The event also provided an avenue for the exchange of ideas and knowledge, as well as prospects for new collaborations.

Key speakers for the opening session included the Hon. Bettina Stark-Watzinger, German Federal Minister of Education and Research, SASSCAL's Hon. Kereng, WASCAL's Ministerial Council Chairperson and Mali Minister of Education and Research, H.E. Prof. Amadou Keita, SADC Executive Secretary, H.E. Elias M. Magosi, and ECOWAS Commission President Dr. Omar Alieu Touray.

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## WEST AFRICA, SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND GERMANY SIGN PACT TO STRENGTHEN CLIMATE & ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

**SOUTHERN** and West African Climate Change Ministers have signed a “Joint Declaration” with the Federal Government of Germany, to further strengthen the climate and energy partnership for the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL), West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany (BMBF).

Among other key areas of the declaration were: to strengthen the capacities of policy and decision makers to explore, introduce and extend rational land use systems adapted to the conditions prevailing in the countries of Africa and promote implementation of policies and measures that ensure the provision of the essential ecosystem services while supporting the livelihoods of local communities in line with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), adaptation plans and development policies; to establish Green Hydrogen and renewable energy as a new strategic focus; and to employ research, development, innovation and capacity building to provide targeted support for sustainable economic and social development in ECOWAS and SADC member states.

It also stipulated that Green Hydrogen will be used as a key to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and a sustainable economy, through transformative actions, such as the promotion of entrepreneurship and climate incubation centres fostering the development of applied research and innovative tools and products.

The meeting was also to commemorate ten (10) years of successful climate and energy partnership between the two climate change centres and their funder, Germany. During the period under review, the BMBF established the climate competence centres of WASCAL and SASSCAL together with partner countries in West and South Africa – for more international climate research.

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# BY THE JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENTS

**AMONG** the items in the joint declaration between WASCAL and SASSCAL and BMBF, financial contributions by the Members in accordance with the SASSCAL Treaty and the WASCAL Constitution; further direct financial contributions by BMBF to programmes and projects in research, capacity development and services provision of SASSCAL and WASCAL through grants and programmed funds as well as contributions to investments into research, development, innovation and teaching infrastructure according to its general funding guidelines; provide active in-kind support of the Members to mobilise additional resources for SASSCAL and WASCAL such as grants, loans, legacies, gifts, compensation, and other contributions in kind or in cash from governments and international, regional or national organizations, donors, and facilities or institutions and from other sources intended for the furtherance of the aims of SASSCAL and WASCAL;

Again, it stipulates that the institutions shall receive political support and backing by the Members to consolidate the institutional structures by maintaining and expanding existing networks with national, regional and international partners and stakeholders, deepening the relations with ECOWAS and SADC and extending SASSCAL and WASCAL membership among their members, as well as advocating for greater involvement of both centres in activities of the African Union.



## WASCAL ENGAGES KFW TO COMMENCE BUILDING OF COMPETENCE CENTRE

**WASCAL** and KfW have met in Berlin to further discuss execution plans to commence the construction of the € 7 million (BMBF) funded Competence Centre at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. In 2021, the sod was cut for what would serve as a Centre of Excellence for Climate Change across Africa. The fruitful discussions formed part of the side events at the WASCAL SASSCAL inter-ministerial meeting in Berlin to commemorate the 10 years celebrations of climate action and climate partnership in Africa.

The Competence Centre is the scientific arm of WASCAL. As a specialized regional climate centre, it delivers climate and environmental services to West African countries and other stakeholders in five thematic areas, namely; sustainable agriculture and climate smart landscapes, land use and land degradation, rural-urban and cross-border migration, risk and vulnerability to climate extremes, and renewable energy.

KfW has been committed to improving economic, social, and environmental living conditions across the globe on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany and the federal states since 1948.



# AFRICAN MINISTERS ENGAGE GERMAN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN BID TO INTENSIFY CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP



**WEST** and Southern Africa Ministers responsible for Climate Change have visited the German Bundestag (The German Parliament), in Berlin, as part of a two-day inter-ministerial meeting to round off a decade of climate partnership between Africa and Germany through the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) and the Southern Africa Science Service Centre on Climate Change and adapted land management (SASSCAL).

The German parliament was represented by the vice chair of the parliamentary select committee on education, research and technology, Dr. Petra Sitte, and spokesperson on education, research and technology, Hon. Holger Mann. They conveyed their satisfaction from the German Bundestag to the ministers, highlighting the monumental successes the two institutions continue to chalk over the past 10 years.

The African ministerial delegate was also led by the WASCAL Ministerial Chair, Dr. Amadou Keita, who is also the minister of research and higher education, Mali, and the vice-chair of SASSCAL, H.E. Phildah Kereng who is also the minister of environment and tourism of the Republic of Botswana.

Among the key issues discussed were the success stories of the two institutions and their impact within the continent of Africa, and the need for strengthening the partnership between Germany and the two institutions to achieve the common goal of a successful energy transition through Green Hydrogen, intensifying research, and building wider capacities to succeed in realizing the United Nations Development Goal 13 on climate action.

Speaking at the session with the parliamentarians, Dr. Amadou Keita expressed his delight at the partnership with Germany and the positive results it continues to generate.

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# WASCAL-SASSCAL NETWORKING MEETING

**AS** part of the two-day inter-ministerial meeting in Berlin, WASCAL and SASSCAL engaged prospective global partners in productive exchanges towards building sustainable institutions. Under the chairmanship of the chairs of the ministerial council of the two institutions, the session attracted German, and global funders, and other existing and prospective climate change and green hydrogen partners. Key resolutions, and strategies were developed, with stronger deepening of partnerships amongst the existing partners. The session was the first of its kind to have the two regional institutions under one roof pitching their activities to their partners, capturing their success stories and their plans for the future. Among the key participants are the ministers of West and Southern Africa, members of the diplomatic corps in Africa and Germany, project partners like Julius-Robert University, Würzburg University, Mittweida University, African Development Bank, ECOWAS, SADC, SACREEE and ECREEE among others.





# “ ‘CLIMATE CHANGE’ RESEARCH AND POLITICS: AFRICA AND GERMANY – WALKING THE PATH TOGETHER” BMBF MINISTER

**THE** Federal Minister of Education and Research, Germany (BMBF), Madam Bettina Stark Watzinger, has lauded the many successes chalked by West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted and Use (WASCAL and the Southern Africa Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL), through the partnership of BMBF over the past 10 years, citing continuous impact story between Africa and Germany in the fight against Climate Change.

Delivering her speech at the WASCAL-SASSCAL inter – ministerial meeting of West Africa and Southern Africa on climate change and green hydrogen in Berlin, Germany, the minister expressed delight at the number of future scientists trained so far in West and Southern Africa in diverse thematic areas on climate change.

“Research and politics Africa and Germany – We are walking the path together. Truly a reason to celebrate. Ten years – that’s not always a given in international relations. Ten years of many successes. The most important of which is our next-generation scientists. More than 600 young people have been trained at WASCAL 300 at SASSCAL, working across disciplines and internationally these climate experts whom we need – especially in Africa.” She spoke.

She also expressed optimism at the role research plays in helping understand the development of climate change in Africa, citing the impact stories and sustainability of WASCAL and SASSCAL.

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