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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2023



**Celebrating a Decade of Climate Action:
West and Southern African Climate Change
Ministers Meet in Germany**

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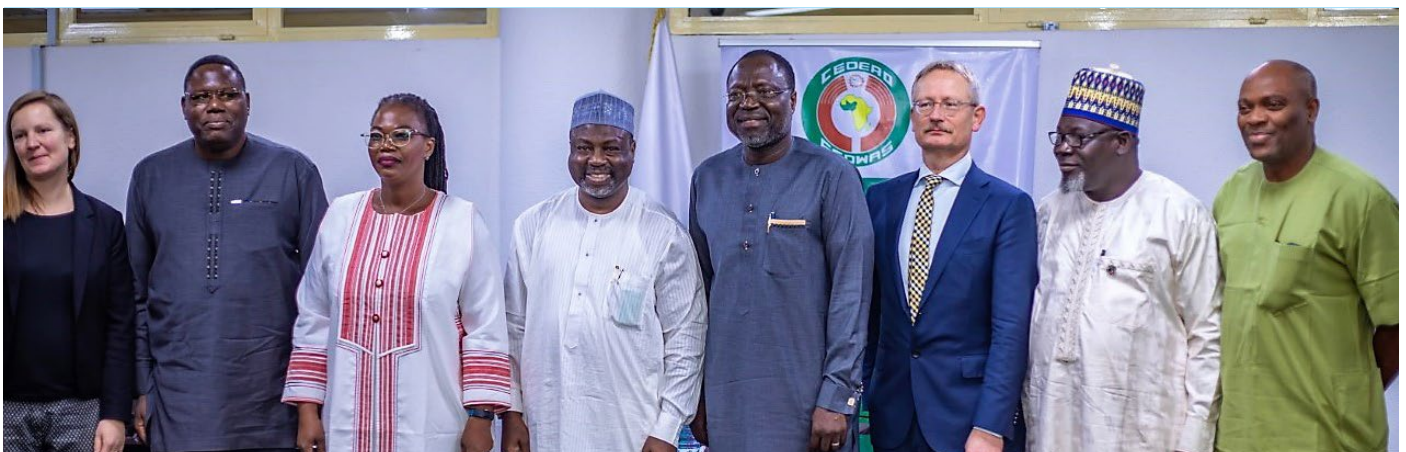
West and Southern Africa ministers, responsible for climate change and higher education met in Berlin, Germany from February 21-22, under the invitation and auspices of the Federal German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), as part of activities to climax the decade celebrations of the West African 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 sought 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.

ECOWAS and the German Ministry of Education and Research Discuss Collaboration on Climate Change and Green Transition



A delegation from the German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) led by the Head of Unit, Global Change and Climate Research, Dr. Karsten Hess has paid a working visit to the President of the ECOWAS Commission, H.E. Dr. Omar Alieu Touray, at the ECOWAS Commission Headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria.

The delegation praised the long-term relationship between Germany and the ECOWAS Commission promising to strengthen collaboration in the areas of climate change, green transition, and renewable energy.



WASCAL Congratulates CAMES Director

WASCAL has paid a courtesy call and congratulated Prof. Souleymane Konate, the immediate past Director of the WASCAL Graduate Studies Programme in Climate Change and Biodiversity at the University Felix Houphouet Boigny, in Cote d'Ivoire on his new appointment as General Secretary of one of the most prestigious institutions in Africa in terms of research and education as well as lecturer's accreditation in the francophone zone and beyond in Africa, the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES).

Prof. Kehinde Ogunjobi, WASCAL Director of Research, on behalf of WASCAL, expressed delight at the new milestone of Prof. Konate. While congratulating him, they explored areas of collaboration, notably, on how WASCAL programmes can be valorized, validated, and evaluated. Prof. Ogunjobi also sought the support of CAMES in the evaluation of WASCAL scientists in order to comply with best international standards.

West Africa, Southern Africa, and Germany Sign Pact to Strengthen Climate & Energy Partnership

BERLIN: 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.





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.

“ ‘Climate Change’ Research and Politics: Africa and Germany –Walking the Path Together” Bmbf Minister

BERLIN: 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.



WASCAL's MIGRAWARE Project Builds Capacity for Data Collection Strategies on Climate Change Migration



The MIGRAWARE Project, one of the six projects under WASCAL Research Action Plan 2.0, financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), managed and coordinated by WASCAL has organized a two-day workshop in Bobo Dioulasso, on data collection strategies with its partners from top universities and national institutions in Burkina Faso.

The objectives of the workshop were to validate data collection strategies road map for the development of exchange and knowledge sharing on migration on one hand and on the other hand, identify sources

and availability of data in West Africa, to suggest a digitalized integrated information system for data sharing and necessary action for decision making and key stakeholders such as farmers and livestock raisers.

Speaking about migration and its causes in Burkina Faso, Dr. Safietou Sanfo, Senior Scientist at the Competence Centre and coordinator of the MIGRAWARE project indicated that migration problems are linked to land and water resources scarcity caused by Climate and environmental Changes induced extreme events which often are sources of conflicts.

Stakeholders Meet to Shape the Path to the Operationalization of West Africa Regional hub of the Independent Global Stocktake (IGST)

The WASCAL Competence Centre, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, has hosted a one-day national workshop of the Independent Global Stock take (iGST) West Africa Regional Hub.

The objective of the workshop was to report the outcomes of the regional assessment on the characterization and engagement of climate civil society in West Africa, build the capacity of the participants on the Global Stock take (GST) process, and to have discussions aimed at co-designing of the operationalization document of the Hub.

The operationalization document of the Hub comprises the structure, the modalities of its operation and engagement, as well as the activities' roadmap.

At the opening ceremony, the Director of Research of the Competence Centre, Prof Kehinde Ogunjobi, commended the representatives of the civil society organizations for their cooperation and engagement

and expressed confidence that the Hub would contribute significantly to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

He said, the iGST Hub formation process "is a journey that we are undertaking together. We will work to enable each Civil Society Organisation to make the most of the collaboration with WASCAL and the West African hub. We appreciate this experience sharing and commitment towards achieving the purpose of Article 14 of the Paris Agreement".



Stakeholders Review Climate Change - Migration Nexus in West Africa

The MiTra-WA (Migration and Trans-locality in West Africa) Project consortium has held a two-day workshop in Kumasi, Ghana, to review planned research activities and assess global progress. The Project, coordinated by WASCAL, Stakeholders in the Mitra-WA project have reviewed research activities on data collection and preliminary results on the progress reports and climate services.

Prof. John Tiah Bugri, Rector and representative of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) indicated that translocation migration is a major challenge in West Africa. He, therefore, expressed satisfaction with the objective of the project which consists, among others, in investigating climate change, migration, and translocality complex relationships.

Prof. Malte Steinbrink, Principal Investigator of the project, expressed his satisfaction about the achievements of the Mitra-WA project goals for the previous years.

Dr Safietou Sanfo, Regional Thematic Coordinator of the project elaborated on climate and environmental services and on the process towards co-developing, co-delivering and co-disseminating the services among the project stakeholders. "There is a need to develop policy on trans-locality migration by linking migration to climate change and provide persuasive services to decision makers" She spoke.



ECOWAS Energy Ministers Adopt Green Hydrogen Policy

ECOWAS energy ministers have adopted green hydrogen policy at the just-ended meeting which took place in Bissau, Guinea Bissau, under the chairmanship of the Honourable Minister of Energy and Industry of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Mr Augusto Poqueno.

WASCAL, headed by its Executive Director, Dr Moumini Savadogo, participated in the meeting in the company of Dr. Bruno Korgo, Renewable Energy and Green Hydrogen Coordinator for WASCAL.

In his welcome statement, Mr. Sédiko Douka, Commissioner of Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalization of the ECOWAS Commission, commended WASCAL and expressed appreciation to the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research for their support to the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) in the development of the ECOWAS Green Hydrogen Policy and for supporting

the promotion and dissemination of this renewable energy source across ECOWAS countries.



WASCAL Builds Capacities of 100 West African Stakeholders on Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability



The WASCAL Competence Centre, has built the capacities of more than 100 stakeholders within and outside the WASCAL Research Action Plan Phase 2 (WRAP 2.0) on good and efficient implementation of the projects for the sake of trust and sustainability of resources mobilization.

The training was organized on the background of the fact that organizations responsible for implementing supported development projects need to track, analyze, and report progress during the implementation phase. To achieve this, strong knowledge in monitoring and

evaluation is of great importance.

The workshop, facilitated by high profile experts in Project Monitoring and Evaluation, was designed to raise awareness among WASCAL scientists, members of steering committees, staff of coordinating units of WASCAL's WRAP 2.0 projects, students and WASCAL Alumni on Monitoring and Evaluation approaches that will result in a participatory development of Monitoring and Evaluation Learning Plan. In order to help WASCAL generate timely and evidence-based decision-making during project implementation in the future.



WASCAL Intensifies Road Map For Cooperation With Ecowas on Climate Change

The West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), and the Economic Community of West African States

(ECOWAS) have held a two-day technical meeting in Accra to define the framework for the intensification of the cooperation between the two institutions with a view of WASCAL becoming an arm of ECOWAS in the implementation of its vision 2050 'ECOWAS of peoples: Peace and Prosperity for ALL' and beyond.

The aim of the meeting was to share information of ECOWAS and WASCAL strategies, identify common areas of interest for further cooperation, define the framework of the cooperation and agree on a roadmap for the implementation of the framework. Various strategies from ECOWAS and WASCAL representatives were presented, after which a parallel discussion was held based on three main themes: Research Innovation, Data & Climate Services, Capacity Building & Institutional Development, Fundraising and Gender.

WASCAL call for application

GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAMMES
2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

MASTERS PROGRAMMES:

Climate Change & Marine Sciences

Atlantic Technical University, Mindelo Cabo Verde

Informatics for Climate Change

Université Joseph KI-ZERBO, Ouagadougou Burkina-Faso



The West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) under the sponsorship of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is pleased to announce the 4th batch of its master's research programmes in Climate Change.

For enquiries: capacitybp@wascal.org

visit: **www.wascal.org** to apply

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 30TH JUNE 2023

Editor: Nii Commey
Contributing Editors: Peace Ahovi,
Marc Belemsogbo, Igor Bado
Layout & Design: Communication Division, WASCAL
T: +233 302 777 137

 www.wascal.org
 press@wascal.org
 [wascal climate](https://www.facebook.com/wascalclimate)
   [@wascalclimate](https://www.instagram.com/wascalclimate)
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