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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 2023



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WASCAL Ministerial Council Meets in Accra to Tackle Climate Change Crisis

The 5th biennial meeting of WASCAL Ministerial Council was held in Accra. The meeting aimed to bring together Ministers responsible for environment, [continue page 4](#)

WASCAL Green Scholarship Programme: 59 West African Students in the International Master's Programme in Energy and Green Hydrogen Graduated



WASCAL has graduated its first Green Scholars in the International Master's Programme in Energy and Green Hydrogen comprising fifty-nine (59) students from 15 West African countries who graduated in four different thematic areas under green hydrogen.

The programme, which commenced in 2021 by WASCAL and its West African and German partners offered beneficiaries, a full scholarship to study for 48 hours, including a four-month academic visit to Germany. The scholarship is sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), and implemented by WASCAL and its partners, Julich, RWTH Aachen University with support from Rostock University from the German Side, and Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey, Niger; Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal; Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, Cote d'Ivoire; Université de Lomé, Togo from the West African side.

The journey of these ambitious students began in 2020 when they embarked on an inspiring academic adventure to build expertise in the emerging field of green hydrogen in West Africa. They gained invaluable experience in one of the world's leading countries in green hydrogen technology.

The successful graduation of these 59 West African students is evidence of WASCAL's commitment to contributing towards the realization of the smooth transition from fossil fuel to cleaner, cheaper, and sustainable energy dedication, resilience, and the commitment of the participating universities to fostering academic excellence in the green hydrogen field. Their accomplishments serve as a beacon of hope, demonstrating the potential of education and international collaboration to drive positive change in the world.

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WASCAL Mobilises More Than 300 CSOs to Take Stock of West African Countries' Progress on Paris Agreement



Over 300 Civil Service Societies (CSOs) across West Africa have so far been mobilized to take stock of Governments' progress on the Paris Agreement based on their nationally determined contributions to climate change.

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WASCAL Donates 5 Water Level Sensors To Water Research Institute

WASCAL has donated four (4) automatic water level sensors and one (1) water quality sensor to the Water Research Institute in Accra. This contribution aims to address the challenges of hydrological data availability and collection in the West African region and facilitate research, capacity building, and service development in the face of Climate Change.

The donated Automatic Hydrological sensors have parameters at which each level can log and send by telemetry to the online server (from water level to water temperature, PH measurement of water, electric

conductivity, and turbidity). Dr. Francis Agyenim Boateng, Vice Chair of the WASCAL Governing Board, presented the sensors to Prof. Mike Yaw Osei-Atweneboana, Director of the Water Research Institute, on behalf of WASCAL.

Speaking at the handing-over ceremony, Dr. Agyenim Boateng emphasized the essence of research integration for solving real-world problems and expressed pride in the partnership with WASCAL.

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WASCAL and RUFORUM Build Capacities Towards Developing University Curricula In Climate-Smart Agriculture and Climate Information Services



The Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA), in partnership with the Regional

Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), has ended a three-day capacity building of trainers on building a university curriculum with a specialized focus on Climate Information Systems (CIS) and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA).

The objective of the workshop was to have feedback from the lecturers on each module and incorporate that input to improve the different modules. The training material then made available to the lecturers composed of WASCAL Alumni, and lecturers in some Universities in Ghana.

Participants were provided with comprehensive training programme to raise awareness, train educators, and equip them with meticulously developed training materials across four thematic modules: Soil Carbon Sequestration and Crop Production: disaster Risk Management in Crop Production, Livestock, and Aquaculture; Renewable Energy, Water Resources, and Agriculture; and modules developed specifically for this project (CSA and CIS).

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WASCAL, Creates Enabling Environment for Green Hydrogen Research and Capacity Building in West Africa



WASCAL and its stakeholders have engaged in the inaugural edition of the Green Conversations on achievements and prospects for a successful and smooth transition from fossil fuel to clean, cheaper, and sustainable energy in West Africa.

Under the theme, "Enabling Environment for Capacity Building and Research for Green Hydrogen Economy in West Africa," key speakers from WASCAL and Julich from Germany as well as contributors from across the world participated in a 2-hour interactive session on creating the enabling environment to ensure a successful green economy in West Africa.

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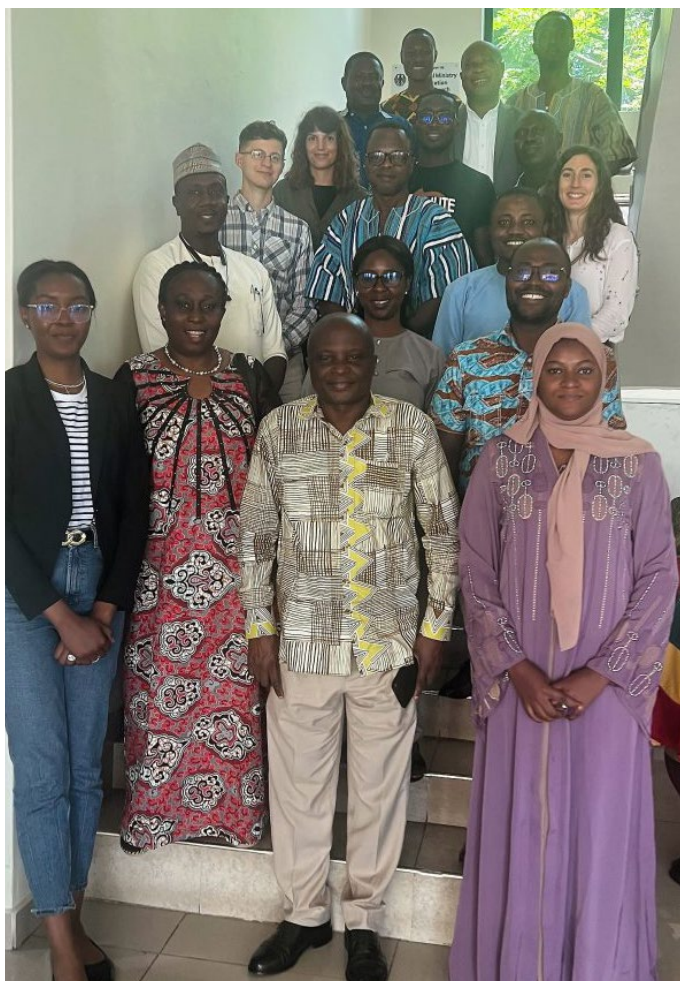
Independent Global Stocktake (iGST) West Africa Regional Hub Launched

The Independent Global Stocktake (iGST), West Africa has been launched in Ouagadougou. After a successful organization of six (6) national workshops across West Africa, to co-design the roadmap of the operationalization of the West African regional hub in the last three months, members of the iGST West Africa Regional Hub have met in Ouagadougou Burkina Faso to validate the compiled operational document of the Hub. The validation workshop then paved the way for the official launch of the Hub.

Speaking at the opening session of the event, the former Executive Director of WASCAL, Dr. Moumini Savadogo said, "The iGST Hub is a clear demonstration that non-party stakeholders, the civil society organizations including experts and scientists have a fundamental role to play in the fight against climate change, and specifically in helping assess our progress and identifying the challenges and opportunities for accelerated climate actions, and working together to propose solutions pathways to 2030 and beyond".

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Experts Call on the Government to Examine Climate Change as a Cause of Rural-Urban Migration



Experts of the Rural-Urban Migration and Cross Border Migration in West Africa (MIGRAWARE), a research initiative under the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany (BMBF), and other German and West African partners have called on West African policymakers to consider climate change and environmental factors during migration governance apart from mostly economic factors.

Presenting the findings at a validation workshop held in Accra, Dr. Justice Nana Inkoom, project coordinator, MIGRAWARE, from the Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg in Germany stated that there were specific environmental and climate factors that influenced migration, underscoring some of them.

“Some of the environmental and climate factors of migration include inadequate rainfall, poor yields of crops, extreme weather conditions, floods, and inadequate farmlands among others. We are, therefore, proposing a migration governance framework that examines the reasons for rural-urban migration other than those traditionally known ones.” He said.

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Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa: UNDRR and Network of Centres of Excellence Train Experts in Early Warning Systems



In response to Africa’s vulnerability to the threats and risks of disaster, which undermines the development and safety of the continent, the United Nation’s Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), in partnership with its Network of Centres of Excellence is building capacities of Africans to enable them to tackle the issue through the early warning system initiative.

At a 5-day training trainers’ workshop held in

Accra, experts from across the continent’s relevant institutions were equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to train and develop their stakeholders in various topics related to approaches to early warning and anticipatory actions for predictable extreme events to build and strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience.

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Africa Climate Summit 2023: WASCAL Calls on Global Climate Change Players to Engage CSOs to Facilitate the Regional Green Growth Agenda



Senior Scientist at WASCAL and regional thematic coordinator on Rural-Urban and Cross Border Migration, Dr. Safietou Sanfo has made a strong case for the role of the civil society, including non-governmental organizations and community-based groups, in building awareness, community engagement, empowerment, capacity, and accountability at the local, national, and regional levels as well as acting as advocates, knowledge

brokers, and watchdog, all as part of efforts to contribute to adaptation and resilience efforts.

She, therefore, called on stakeholders to foster strong collaboration between civil society and the private sector as an essential element in addressing the challenges of climate change adaptation and building resilient communities and economies.

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Republic Of Guinea Joins WASCAL as 12th Member State: Scholarship in Climate Change, Mining Environment, and Forest to Commence Soon

WASCAL has officially welcomed the Republic of Guinea as its 12-member state, as part of its regional integration approach to fighting climate change and improving livelihoods in West Africa. With this, Guinea will be hosting the WASCAL Graduate School Programme doctoral scholarship in Climate Change, Mining Environment, and Forest.

At a two-day orientation workshop held in Conakry, the Governing Board Chair of WASCAL, Prof. Marie Luce Quashi. Lucie expressed delight at the integration and what it means to the West African sub-region.

“This momentous and monumental occasion marks the commencement of a new chapter in WASCAL-Guinea’s bilateral relationship towards sustainable development and resilience in the face of climate change. The climate crisis requires collective action,



and through its partnership with WASCAL, Guinea reaffirms its dedication to international collaboration. By participating in climate change capacity building and research initiatives, Guinea will not only enhance its own resilience but also contribute valuable insights to help other nations better understand and adapt to these changing conditions” She said.

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WASCAL Donates Hydrological Sensors to Enhance Climate Research in Nigeria



In a significant effort to bolster Climate Change research and policymaking in Nigeria, the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) has donated Automatic Hydrological Sensors to both the Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA) and the Benin-Owena River Basin Development Authority (BORDA).

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New Ministerial Council Chair to Drive WASCAL 's Sustainable Climate Action in West Africa Elected

WASCAL proudly announces the election of Dr. Diaka Sidibe, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation from the Republic of Guinea as the new Ministerial Council Chair. The election took place at the just ended 5th Ministerial Council Meeting in Accra.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Diaka expressed her gratitude for the trust placed in her by the member countries and affirmed her commitment to advancing WASCAL's mission of promoting climate resilience and sustainable land use in West Africa. She stated, "I am honored to serve as the Ministerial Council Chair of WASCAL and look forward to collaborating with member countries and partners to address the pressing challenges of climate change in our region."

Prof. Adjima Thiombiano, minister of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation from Burkina Faso, representing the outgoing Ministerial Council Chair, Prof Boureima Kansaye, conveyed his best wishes to the incoming chair and expressed confidence in Dr. Diaka to lead WASCAL into a new phase of impactful initiatives. "I am confident that Dr. Diaka will continue to elevate WASCAL's contributions to sustainable development in West Africa." He spoke

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WASCAL Ministerial Council Meets in Accra to Tackle Climate Change Crisis

The 5th biennial meeting of the WASCAL Ministerial Council was held in Accra. The meeting aimed to bring together Ministers responsible for environment, science, and Climate Change from 12 West African countries and Germany, along with diplomatic corps and global stakeholders. The goal was to explore strategies for enhancing the sub-region's resilience against the global climate crisis.

The meeting was spearheaded by WASCAL, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) Germany. The event was hosted by the Ghana's Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation. [Read more....](#)



Leveraging Knowledge, and Resources to Address Climate Change Issues in West Africa: WASCAL, BMBF, and Jülich Forge Stronger Ties

WASCAL hosted a delegation from the Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZ) at its headquarters in Accra, to agree and strengthen partnership between West Africa and Germany with the aim of leveraging knowledge, expertise, and resources to face Climate Change issues.

Attention was particularly given to the role of Renewable Energy and Green Hydrogen technologies in the global energy transition and the achievement of the net zero target. It is also

to strengthen existing ties with WASCAL and ECOWAS sub-region to build strong capacity, develop research and innovation, implement pilot demonstrative projects, and to develop business models in the field of Green Hydrogen, as well as create avenues to pass knowledge results to end users.

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WASCAL Partners with Gerics to Combat Climate Change and Improve Livelihoods in West Africa



In a groundbreaking initiative to combat climate change and enhance livelihoods in West Africa, WASCAL has joined forces with the German Climate Services Centre (GERICS). The partnership materialized during a two-day inception workshop held at the WASCAL Headquarters in Accra, marking the commencement of a 36-month project named “Customised and Integrated Climate and Environmental Services for Improved Resilience and Sustainable Socio-Economic Development in West Africa (CICLES).”

Addressing the media in a press conference following the workshop, Professor Kehinde Ogunjobi, the Interim Executive Director of WASCAL, shed light on the project’s overarching goal. He explained that CICLES aims to bolster the adaptive capacity and resilience of nations susceptible to climate risks in West Africa. This will be achieved through the collaborative development of end-to-end climate environmental services.

“The project is expected to result in the operationalization of customized Climate and Environmental Service (CES), interactive science-policy for action and sustainability, and to also establish feedback loops and impact evaluations of CES for cost effectiveness and self-reliant CES for West Africa,” Prof. Ogunjobi emphasized.

The project will be structured around five key pillars, including data and scientific computation, timely information on extreme climate events, cross-border rural and urban migration, climate change policy and action, and training.

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Discussions on iGST at Cop28 in Dubai



WASCAL has engaged actively in diverse discussions and forums at COP28, on the Global Stocktake debate, showcasing its commitment through the iGST West Africa hub initiative, a collaborative effort with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Recognizing the significance of the COP28 platform, WASCAL strategically used the opportunity to leverage partnerships with stakeholders including the Ministry of Environment in Nigeria, Equity BCDC, and the Academia of the African Union to the UK Health

Centre, Welcome Trust, the United Nations University (UNU), and the African Development Bank (AfDB), and secured vital supports for its crucial mission.

In doing so, WASCAL continued its unwavering commitment to addressing Climate Change and improving the resilience of communities in West Africa.

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