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

Combating Climate Change and Improving Livelihoods

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - MARCH, 2024

Creating Jobs to Reduce Carbon Emissions, and Secure a Brighter Tomorrow for Generations to Come

As the world transitions to clean energy, West Africa has a unique opportunity to lead the way. Join us in advocating for policies, and partnerships to accelerate the development of Green Hydrogen infrastructure and technology in the region.
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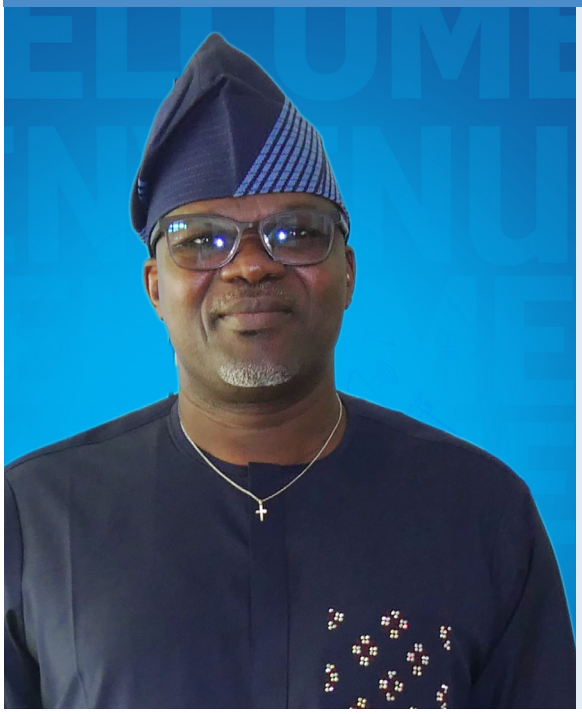
A Quick Glance

WASCAL

WASCAL Appoints Prof. Emmanuel Ramde as New Executive Director to Steer Affairs of Climate Action in West Africa



WASCAL has appointed Ing. Prof. Emmanuel Wendsongre Ramde as its new Executive Director effective 1st March 2024.

Prof. Ramde joins WASCAL with very rich experience of more than 20 years as a mechanical engineer, an energy specialist and project management, monitoring, and evaluation expert.

Prof. Ramde holds PhD degree in Energy/Mechanical Engineering from the Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'eau et de l'environnement/ KNUST. He also holds two master's degrees in business administration, Finance option; as well as Mechanical Engineering from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). He also holds master's degree in Pure Physics and Bachelor of Science in Pure Physics, both from the Joseph Ki-Zerbo University, Ouagadougou, Burkina.

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Spotlighting Guinea's Commitment to Save Mining & Forestry Industry From Climate Change Through WASCAL's Capacity Building Scholarships

For students like Lariba (not actual name), who had come from a mining community somewhere in Guinea, building her capacity to enable her find sustainable solutions to build resilience against the ever-troubling Climate Change and its devastating effects in her community, has been a dream. Traditional farming in her community, once a reliable source of sustenance, has become unpredictable due to irregular rainfall and soil degradation worsened by mining activities.

Like other West African countries, Guinea is exposed to climate vulnerability, forested communities facing diverse risks such as floods, and landslides. These risks are compounded by deforestation and land degradation. It is estimated that with the increasing state of global Climate Change, the challenge will worsen if mitigation and adaptation measures are not intensified. The mining sector, according to findings, is one of the major emitters of greenhouse gases. It is very energy intensive. The industry produces fossil energy resources that further contribute to staggering effects on global climate.

Dedicated through its mandate to build capacities towards climate resilience, WASCAL has partnered with the Government of Guinea, to outdoor its 13th Post Graduate Scholarship programme in the sub-region.

WASCAL has introduced a transformative doctoral scholarship programme in Mining Environment and Forestry to be ran by the Gamal Abdel Nasser University. Students from across West Africa will be selected in a competitive admission process to go through a 46-month study under full scholarship.

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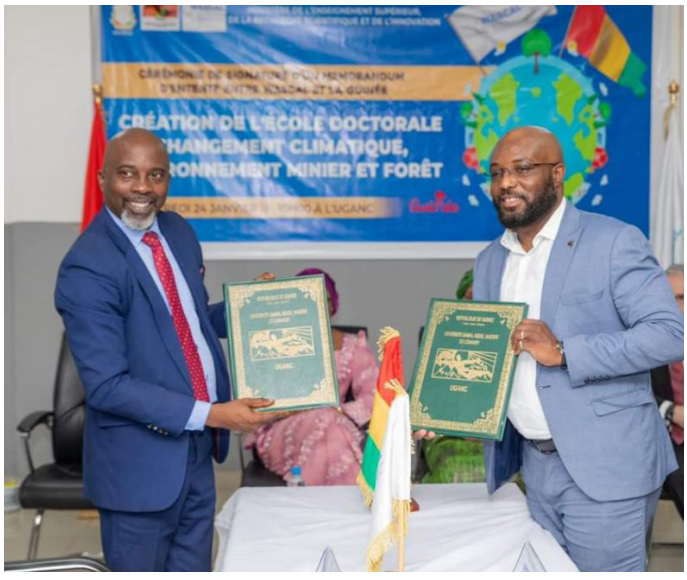

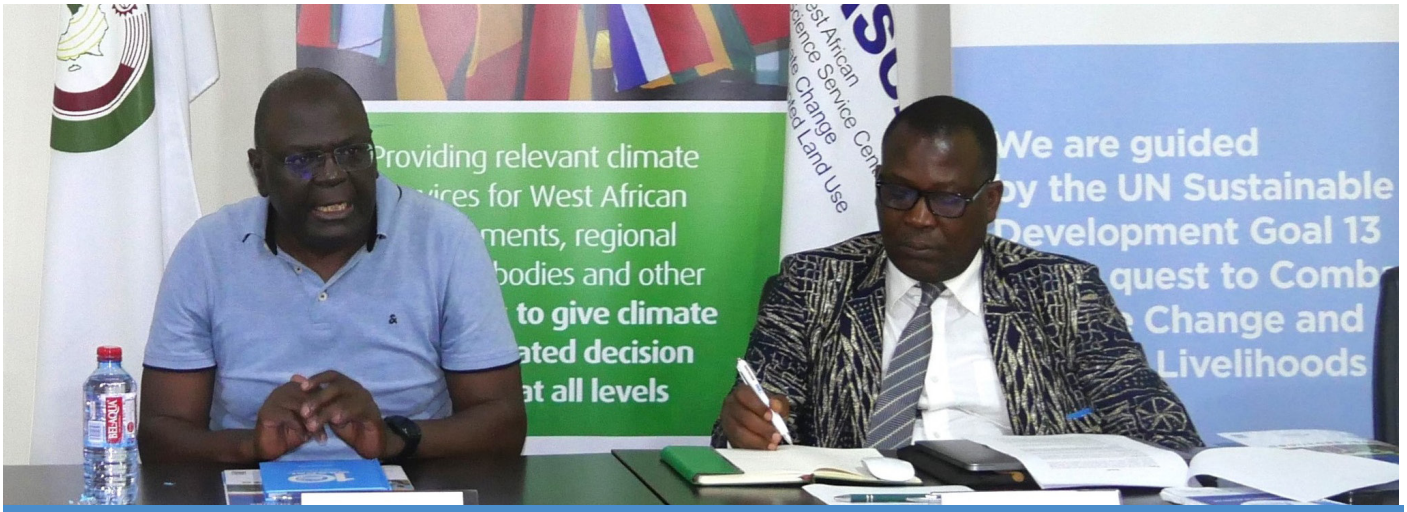

WASCAL Signs MoU With AGNES to Embark on Research Cooperation in West Africa

WASCAL and the African Group of Negotiators Expert Support (AGNES) have signed a partnership agreement to explore their complementary research, institutional development, and capacity-building skills to further their respective missions.

Through this, they will embark on research cooperation to generate, analyze, and share scientific evidence to inform climate and agriculture policies and decision-making.

They will also, collaboratively, develop and implement evidenced-based climate-resilient and low-emission pathways, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in furtherance of the Paris Agreement.

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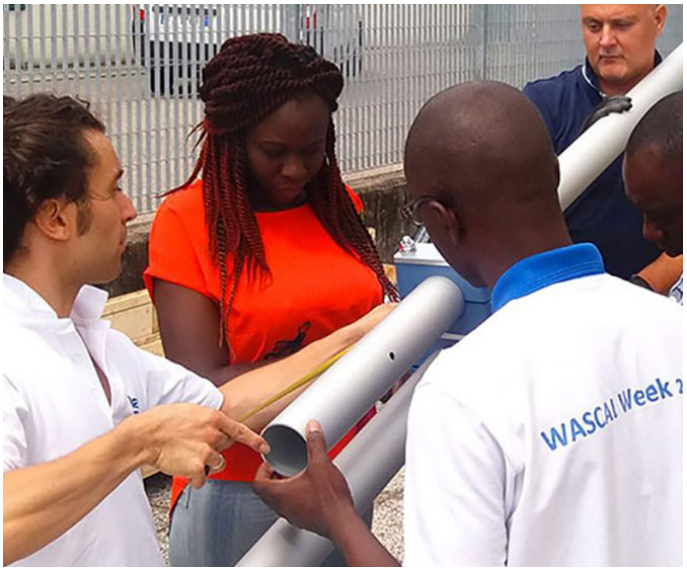
WASCAL's Commitment to Building Resilience to Tackle Water and Climate Change in West Africa



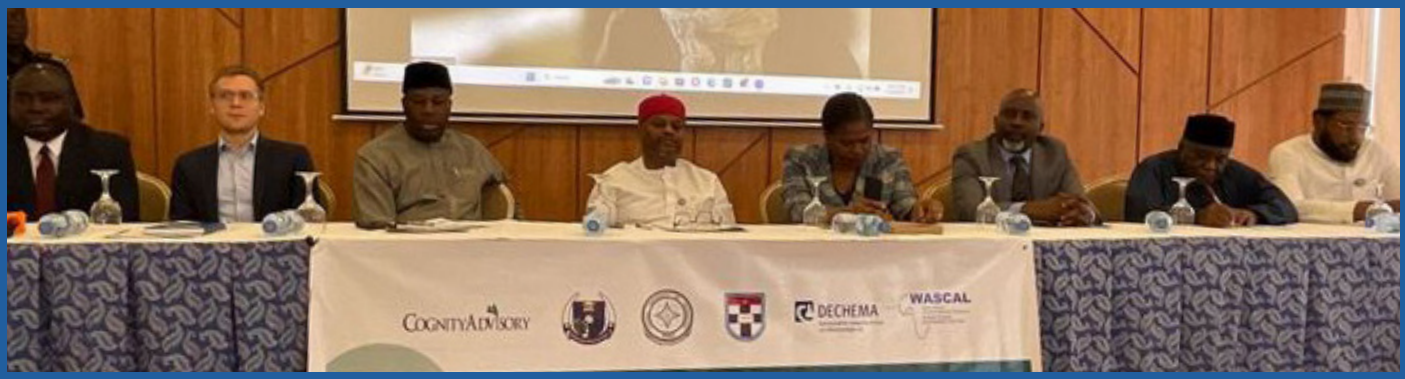
West Africa is vulnerable to high water risk, facing the dangers of hunger, disease, energy shortages, and poverty due to several factors caused by water scarcity, pollution, and flooding.

As we mark World Water Day, it's important to recognize the profound interaction between water and climate change. In West Africa, communities are contending with the devastating impacts of water shortage, flooding, and erratic weather patterns aggravated by climate change.

At WASCAL, we understand the critical role that water plays in shaping our environment and sustaining livelihoods. Our commitment to building climate change resilience in West Africa is fundamentally linked to addressing water-related challenges.

Through capacity-building initiatives, we equip individuals and communities with the knowledge and tools to adapt to the impacts of climate change on water resources. From training programmes for water management professionals to community workshops on sustainable water practices, we are empowering stakeholders to navigate the complex intersection of water and climate change.

Towards the Provision of Leadership Support to aSuccessful Sudy on NIGERIA4H2



Fertilizer and Green Hydrogen Production are crucial for sustainable livelihoods, balancing agricultural productivity with environmental responsibility and contributing to a resilient, low-carbon future.

West African and European partners and experts have begun the journey towards the feasibility of green hydrogen-based fertilizer production in Nigeria.

The Nigeria4H2 project kick-off meeting was under the auspices of the Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology of Nigeria, Chief Uche Geoffrey Nnnaji. WASCAL is providing leadership and technical support together with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), to ensure a successful study.

When done, the experts will provide an enabling framework for the manufacturing of fertilizers, and define a path for a smooth transition in Africa's biggest economy.

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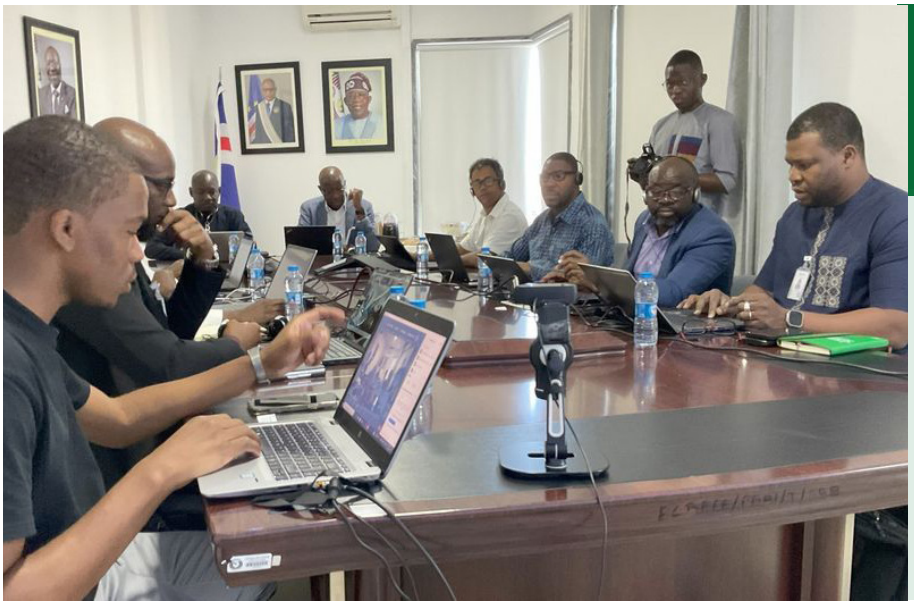

WASCAL and Partners Assess Green Hydrogen Regional Strategy

WASCAL, ECREEE, JUILICH, and H2Atlas met in Cabo Verde to review the implementation of the Regional Green Hydrogen work plan 2024, assess and discuss the operationalization of the Green Hydrogen Regional Strategy and Action Plans 2023-2030 and 2031-2050

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Strengthening Ties With the German Embassy in Accra

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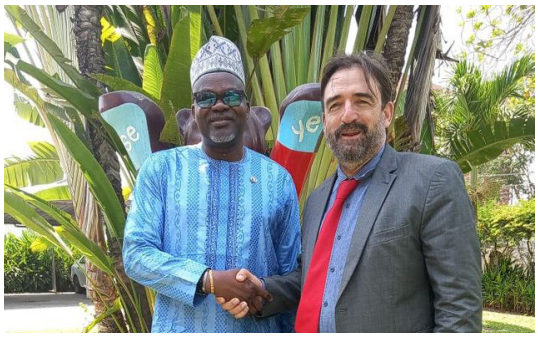
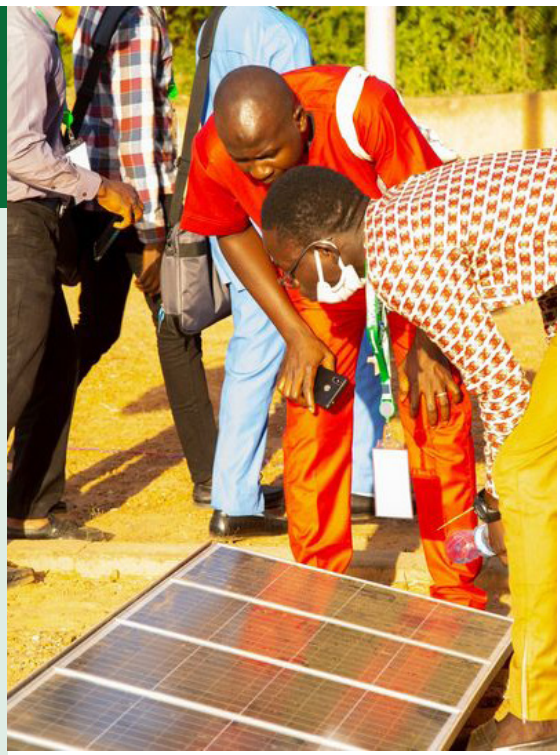


Creating Jobs to Reduce Carbon Emissions, and Secure a Brighter Tomorrow for Generations to Come



As the world transitions to clean energy, West Africa has a unique opportunity to lead the way. Join us in advocating for policies, and partnerships to accelerate the development of Green Hydrogen infrastructure and technology in the region.

WASCAL is already creating jobs and building the capacities of young people through its scholarship programme international master's degree in Energy and Green Hydrogen scholarship programme in West Africa. Together, we can create jobs, reduce carbon emissions, and secure a brighter tomorrow for generations to come. Take action today and be a part of the Green Hydrogen movement in West Africa.

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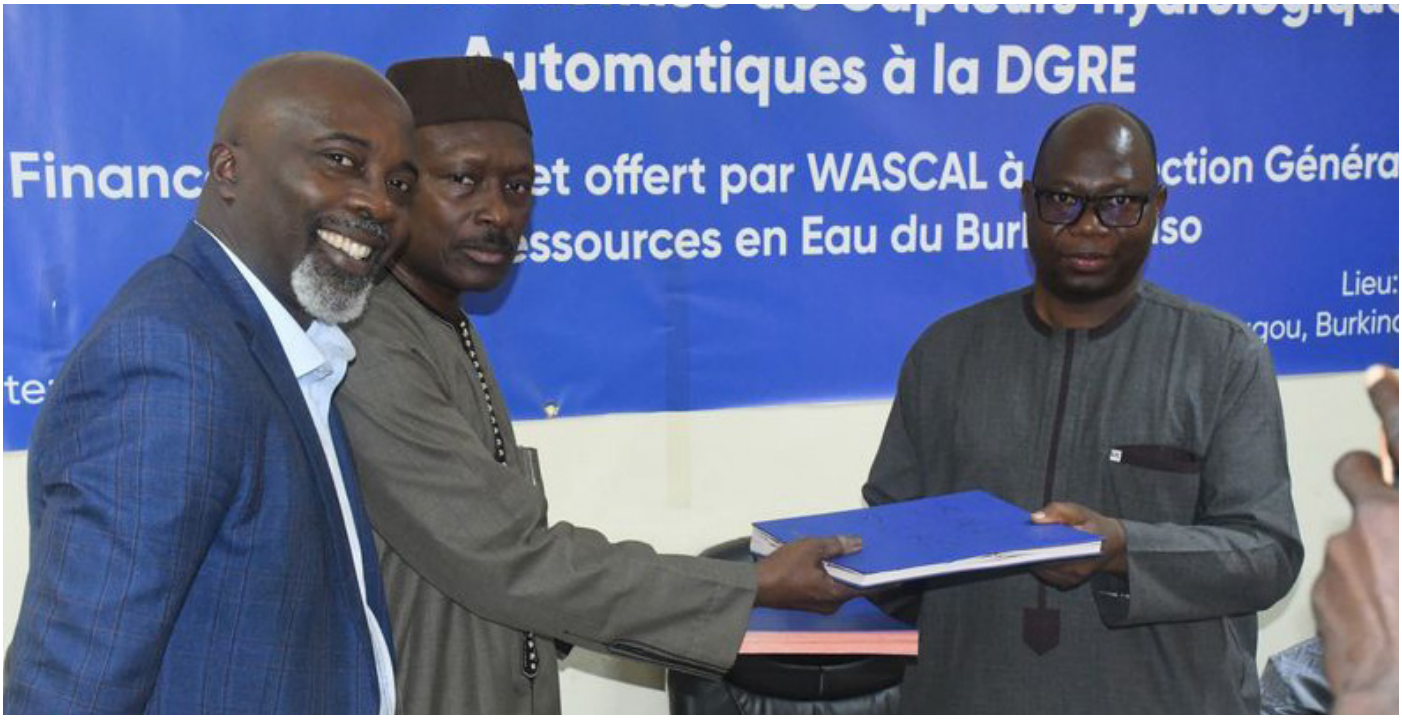
WASCAL Is Supporting Countries With Tools to Mitigate Water-Related Hazards



Hydrological sensors play a crucial role in enhancing our understanding of the dynamic nature of water systems and supporting efforts to address water challenges and promote water security, and more especially in the face of the global threat of climate change, WASCAL is committed to supporting West Africa to be well equipped with the state-of-the-art equipment to combat climate change, provide quality water and improve livelihoods.

The essence of hydrological sensors is its ability to gather accurate and timely data on various aspects of the hydrological cycle, including precipitation, water level, flow rate, and water quality.

These sensors serve as vital tools for monitoring and managing water resources, supporting decision-making processes, and mitigating risks associated with water-related hazards.

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Inspiring Women's Inclusion in Climate Change Communications for Resilience Building

The ability to appreciate diversity inspires inclusion at all levels, most especially in the discourse of pertinent and life-altering issues such as climate change. It is evident through empirical research in climate change communications that progress can only be achieved by identifying diverse stakeholders and designing tailored strategies – especially for the under-represented.

Women in particular play a crucial role in catalyzing a sustained positive change in the climate change discourse, embedded in their triple role in production, reproduction and community agency. A business-as-usual approach such as 'add women and stir' meaning merely ensuring a certain representation of women without inspiring or creating an enabling environment for them to participate effectively is just being politically correct. However, I stand with Jesse Jackson to say that "inclusion is not a matter of political correctness. It is the key to growth".

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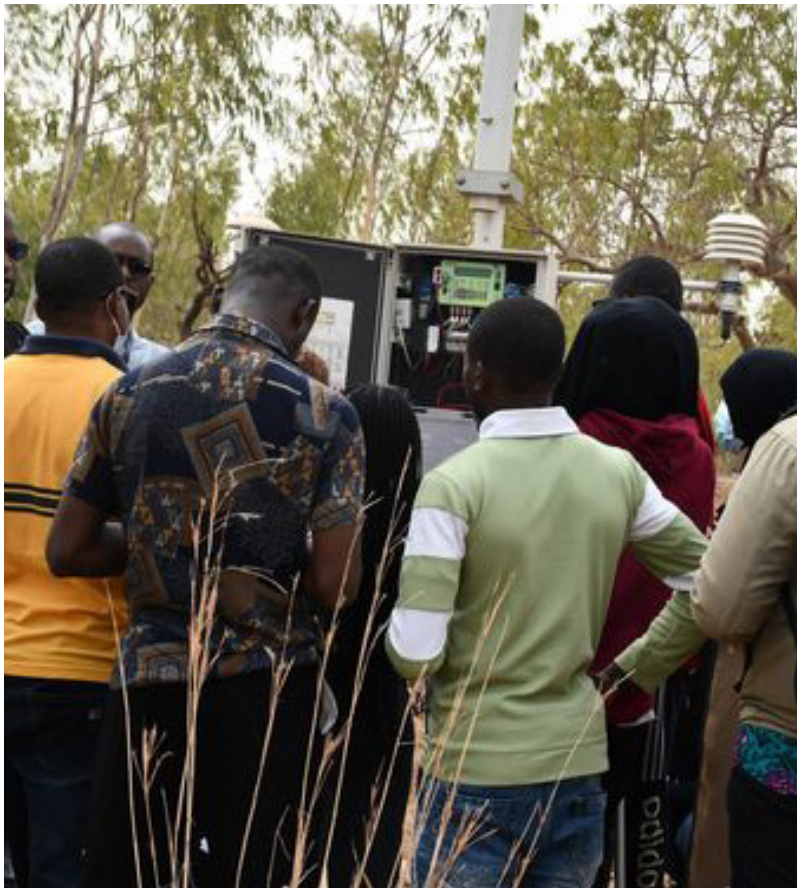
A Day in the Field to Learn About Automatic Weather Station- WASCAL Students Visit Observation Network Stations

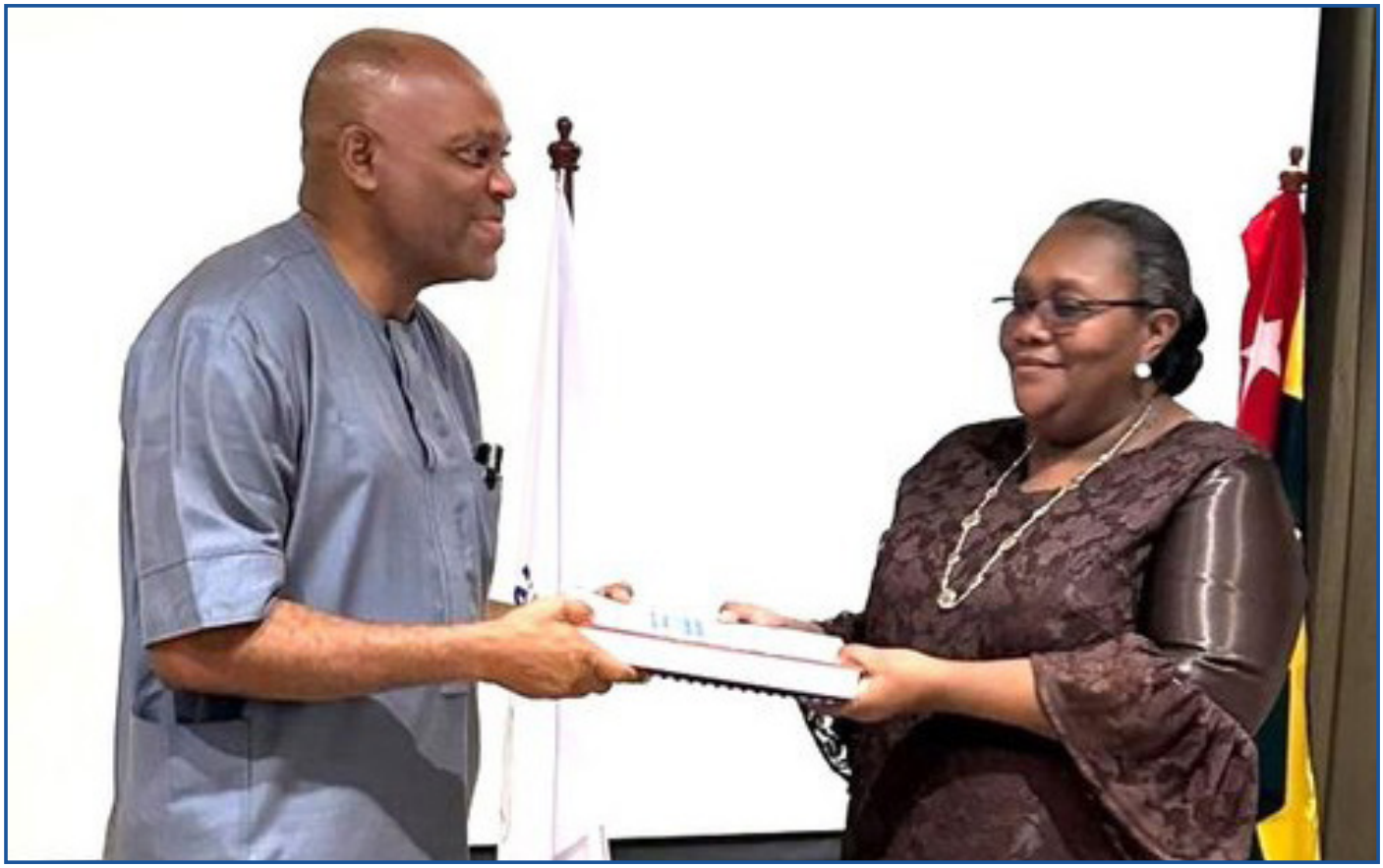
While on a study visit to the WASCAL Competence Centre in Ouagadougou, WASCAL Climate Change Scholars pursuing climate change and informatics at the Université Joseph Ki-Zerbo, Ouagadougou visited Boassa, one of the several locations hosting the organization's Observation Network Stations. The purpose was to give them a hands-on approach to the theories they had already been exposed to.

Their commitment to discovering climate sciences with state-of-the-art methods in statistics, machine learning, and data mining to further accelerate WASCAL's mandate to combat climate change and improve the lives of West Africans was brought to reality. Some students shared their insights:

"It is an immense opportunity that WASCAL offers to us to strengthen our knowledge in this area in other to better help our region fill the climate data gap and develop smart adaptation tools for the benefit of our region." Rasmata Sempore

Other sites and facilities visited included a High-Performance Computer (HPC) facility and a circular economy smart farm to deepen their knowledge of how climate data stations can contribute to achieving major income in drip irrigation combined with a bio-digester system.





Prof. Chinedum Nwajiuba Elected as New WASCAL Board Chair.

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