

General call

The West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) is currently seeking to appoint six team leaders to help implement the WASCAL agenda, formulated during regional consultations over the past year, covering the following fields:

- Meteorology and climate modeling (call 1)
- Hydrology and modeling of the water cycle (call 2)
- Landscape ecology and land use change modeler (call 3)
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services (call 4)
- Climate change economics (call 5)
- Social impact of climate change (call 6)

Initial appointments are until July 31, 2012, with an expected two-year renewal, based on performance and availability of funding. WASCAL offers a competitive remuneration package paid in US dollars or Euros.

Organisation/Location: WASCAL Competence Center, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Application deadline: until the positions are filled

Major details: <http://www.wascal.org>

Applications: CV, names and addresses of three referees should be addressed to the Executive Director WASCAL at p.vlek@uni-bonn.de

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(Call 6)

Senior Researcher: 'Social Impact of Climate Change'

About WASCAL and the Competence Center

The West Africa Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) to be headquartered in Accra, with a Competence Center as its research and training facility, is based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. ZEF, a German Research Center of the University of Bonn, NRW, Germany is charged by the Federal Ministry of Education and Science of Germany with the establishment of WASCAL– together with West African partner countries– to improve the understanding of interactions and feedback loops between climate change and socio-economic and ecological conditions and to enhance the predictive capability of climate change at local to sub-regional scales.

As such, WASCAL will help generate the knowledge and develop the analytical capability in the region to solve current and future land management problems caused by changing climate and weather conditions. The overall aim is to identify resilient and adaptive land use systems and develop measures to conserve or restore functional ecosystems that support sustainable human development, while preserving the natural resource base for future generations. It will make available to the West African research community the expertise existing in Germany on climate change and adapted land management through partnerships, and strengthen the ability in the region to assess the impact of land management policies affecting the well-being of West Africa.

The Competence Center is meant to be a service center to the partner countries.

One key to this function is the mediating role of the Competence Center in data collection (observation networks), data storage and retrieval as well as data exchange. A second key is the ability to develop scenarios on the basis of regional climate models that can be integrated with the various other models that are being developed in WASCAL as a decision support tool. Finally, real time information needs to be made available for the functioning of a reliable early warning system

for the region. The infrastructure for these functions will be established with the help of the German Space Agency (DLR), Research Center Juelich (FZJ) and German Climate Computing Center (DKRZ). The Alliance for the Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) has gracefully agreed to host and administer the West African operations of WASCAL for ZEF until such time that WASCAL has been legally established.

Position responsibilities

The scientists will be responsible for establishing the relevant observation networks as well as a network for policy and planning. They will also play a key role in the joint German-West African Core Research program. The team leaders will actively interact with colleagues, partners and stakeholders within and across WASCAL and the region in implementing interdisciplinary work program. They will be jointly responsible for the development of the Research Cluster: Multi-Scale Impact Assessment.

The team leaders will report to the Director of Research, based in Ouagadougou.

They will lead small teams of young scientists on secondment from National programs or pursuing Ph. D. degrees within the Core Research Program or the Graduate Research Programs in the region, sponsored by WASCAL. Team leaders will attend and participate in project planning/evaluation meetings in addition to annual institute planning meetings. For further details on the WASCAL program, see www.wascal.org.

About the call

The WASCAL project management (www.wascal.org) wishes to appoint an experienced African social scientist with a strong theoretical and empirical background in socio-ecological systems, climate change adaptation and resilience, as well as population dynamics (nexus between demography, gender issues, population mobility, land use and climate variability). The appointee will support an interdisciplinary team at the WASCAL Competence Center in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, dealing scientifically with social impact of climate change and developing new methodologies for monitoring socio-ecological system. Besides his/her own research, the appointee will liaise with African and German counterparts in developing and harmonizing the socio-economic observations network

General requirements

- Doctoral degree in social anthropology, sociology, social geography, political sciences, socio-environmental management or related subjects
- A minimum of 7 years post-doctoral work experience
- A compelling publication record
- Specific interest in international research preferably with work experience in West Africa
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and French
- Experience with the following technical skills would be advantageous: Analytical and (geo) statistical methods (i.e. multivariate statistics), qualitative and quantitative research methodologies (life histories, focus groups, interviews, Endnotes, SPSS, Atlas-Ti etc.) including Geographical Information Systems (GIS), as well as experience in the socio-ecological modeling. Data sampling experience in the field as well as teaching experience would also be important assets.
- Excellent organizational and time management skills including project planning and evaluation
- Ability and willingness to work in an interdisciplinary, multicultural environment
- High degree of initiative and self-motivation

Duty station

The selected candidate will be based at WASCAL Competence Center, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso with extensive travel across West Africa.

Applications

Applications including letter of motivation, curriculum vitae, list of publications (3 of them have to be sent to the employer) names and addresses of three referees should be addressed to the Executive Director of WASCAL Prof. Dr. Paul Vlek at p.vlek@uni-bonn.de

Disclaimer

WASCAL is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from women candidates. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted