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## **Senior Scientist Positions at the newly created WASCAL (West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use)**

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: open

Website: <http://www.wascal.org>

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### *Details:*

*Organization* 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.

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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
- Hydrology and modeling of the water cycle
- Landscape ecology and land use change modeler
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Climate change economics
- Social impact of climate change

*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](http://www.wascal.org).

*Qualification/Experience*

The incumbent will have graduated from a reputed University with PhD in the relevant field and a minimum of 7 years of research experience with strong modeling backgrounds. S/he will have a specific interest international research preferably with experience in working in West Africa. The candidate will need strong interpersonal skills to be able to give leadership in a complex working environment. The successful candidate will be an excellent communicator and

will be able to work as part of an interdisciplinary and diverse team. Excellent verbal and written English is required, with competence in French a strong advantage.

- PhD in relevant field and 7 years post-doctoral experience
- High degree of initiative and self-motivation
- Fluent spoken and written English, willingness to learn French
- Good ICT and modeling skills,
- Motivated to travel extensively
- Excellent organizational and time management skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work in a flexible manner
- Ability to work as part of a dynamic and multicultural team

*Duty Station:* The post-doc will be principally at WASCAL Competence Center, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso with extensive travel across West Africa.

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

WASCAL is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from women candidates.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted