



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Capacity building of actors for enhanced resilience to climate change

Koudougou, Burkina Faso, 12 April 2021 - The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and *West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use* (WASCAL) are jointly organizing a training workshop on climate change-related risks and other degradation factors in view of achieving integrated ecosystems management in the Volta, Mono, Niger and Senegal sub-basins and in Fouta Djallon Massif. The workshop will be held from 13 to 15 April in Koudougou, Burkina Faso.

Central and West Africa's natural ecosystems are undergoing relentless degradation worsened by the adverse effects of anthropogenic and climate change actions. This situation is undermining the goods and services rendered by such ecosystems to the populations. To address the phenomenon, the countries, basin organizations and regional integration institutions have developed some initiatives but their impacts are still inadequate given the issues at stake.

IUCN and its strategic partners in Central and West Africa have therefore brainstormed, which led to the identification of a large-scale project titled "Central and West Africa Regional Water and Environment Partnership (PREE). The Partnership is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). **Mr Aliou Faye, IUCN Regional Director for Central and West Africa** stated that *"the PREE operationalization strategy is designed to support existing institutions, enriching them through partnerships and co-financing, and assist local actors in the quest for technical solutions"*.

The capacity-building workshop is being organized within the framework of the first intervention area of the PREE (capacity building of regional institutions). It is notably intended for actors involved in the management of sub-basins and of Fouta Djallon Massif. During this workshop, the participants will be trained on water-related topics, ecosystem degradation factors and climate change.

It should be noted that WASCAL is one of the PREE implementing partner institutions. To this effect, WASCAL collaborates with IUCN to promote sustainable natural resource management and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. *"WASCAL welcomes this opportunity to work in synergy with IUCN to further strengthen West Africa's adaptation capacities to climate change and therefore, the institution wishes to strengthen this collaboration within the framework of the implementation of the PREE"* said **Dr Moumini Savadogo, Executive Director of WASCAL**.

As a reminder, the PREE is a regional project that aims at strengthening the resilience of natural ecosystems and local communities in West and Central African river and lake basins.

For further information, please contact:

- Félicité MANGANG: felicite.mangang@iucn.org
- Marc BELEMSOBGO: belemsobgo.m@wascal.org

Editor's notes

About IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,400 Member organisations and some 17,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

www.iucn.org

<https://twitter.com/IUCN/>

About WASCAL

WASCAL (West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use) is looking for a Director for Research to consolidate its position as a Regional Research Partner Institution, to expand into new areas of work, and to lead the Competence Centre and develop the Research Team. The position is based at its Competence Centre in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

WASCAL is a research and education-focused institute designed to provide knowledge and climate services that should help tackle the climate change challenge and thereby enhance the resilience of human and environmental systems. It does so by strengthening the research capacity and infrastructure in West Africa related to climate change by pooling the expertise of ten West African countries and Germany. The West African countries include: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and Cape Verde.

WASCAL has its headquarters in Accra, Ghana, the Competence Centre in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso and 12 graduate schools (PhD and MSc. Programmes) in 12 host universities in across West Africa.

The WASCAL Research Programme is aiming to (i) develop qualitative and quantitative tools and models for linking bio-physical and socio-economic processes and feed-backs; (ii) use these models and tools to develop and analyse impact scenarios of climate change including the assessment of alternative land use options as a means to help society cope with the vagaries of climate change, both in climate trends as well as climate variability and extreme events and (iii) facilitate collaboration with research and donor institutions and organizations in West Africa to commonly identify constraints to adaptation and mitigation strategies in land use and how to master these.

www.wascal.org/

About SIDA

The Swedish International Development Agency is a governmental agency under the Swedish Foreign Ministry, established in 1995. It is also known as SIDA which was founded in 1965, and of which it is a continuation.

www.sida.se/en