

Operationalising the links

between researchers and policymakers in West Africa:

A joint WASCAL-AMMA-2050 workshop to share emerging learning and inform the development of a clear road map to bridge existing gaps

**Report of a workshop held at the WASCAL Competency Centre,
14-15 November 2018**



WASCAL and AMMA-2050, 12 December 2018

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Acronyms

AMMA-2050	African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis 2050
CEH	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
DFID	Department for International Development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FCFA	Future Climate for Africa programme
ISRA	Institut Sénégalaise de Recherches Agricoles
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
TF	Theatre Forum
WASCAL	West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use
2iE	Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'Eau et de l'Environnement

Operationalising the links between researchers and policymakers in West Africa

Executive Summary

This is a report of a workshop jointly hosted by the West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) and the African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis 2050 (AMMA-2050) project. Held at the WASCAL Competence Centre in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso on 14-15 November 2018, the workshop brought together members of WASCAL and AMMA-2050 with city, national and regional decision makers to inform the development of the WASCAL Competence Centre and jointly develop a roadmap on how to strengthen linkages between researchers and policymakers in West Africa.

Alongside a small number of key note plenary presentations on strengthening resilience to climate-related risks across the West African region, and specifically within the disaster risk reduction and agricultural sectors, most of the workshop took place through exercises undertaken in small groups, including problem tree analysis and network mapping. Within a café scientifique, participants were introduced to a series of approaches designed to build decision-makers' direct engagement in research. Small-group discussion provided a basis from which participants identified the researcher capacities, policy-maker technical support and resources required to enable strengthened science-policy-practice engagement.

Participants proposed a series of practical steps for WASCAL to strengthen its engagement with policy makers, including:

- Developing systems that incentivise researcher engagement with policy- and decision makers;
- Developing a module on communication and policy engagement in WASCAL graduate schools;
- Reinforcing WASCAL's Public Relations Office and Communications Unit, strengthening the organisation's Communication Strategy and use of approaches effective for both public engagement and science-policy-practitioner dialogue;
- Establishing a science-policy broker in WASCAL to identify entry points and develop tailored messages for key policy processes, as well as monitoring and responding to significant emerging issues, such as major flood events;
- Strengthening WASCAL's Memoranda of Understanding with partnering institutions;
- Identifying regular opportunities for ongoing training and sharing of emerging learning on approaches that support effective science engagement with policy- and decision makers;
- Conducting a survey of decision makers' perceptions of WASCAL, undertaking a cost-benefit analysis to demonstrate the value of evidence-based policy making, and developing with ECOWAS a joint training for policy makers to strengthen capacities for making effective use of scientific findings.

1.0 Workshop context, aims and approach

This is a report of a workshop jointly hosted by the West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) and the African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis 2050 (AMMA-2050) project. Held at the WASCAL Competence Centre in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso on 14-15 November 2018, the workshop focused on *“Operationalizing links between researchers and policy makers in West Africa”*.

The workshop brought together members of WASCAL and AMMA-2050 with city, national and regional decision makers to inform the development of the WASCAL Competence Centre and jointly develop a roadmap on how to strengthen linkages between researchers and policymakers in West Africa. A list of workshop participants is included in Annex 1.

The workshop sought to support open discussion, recognising the wealth of expertise that participants brought to the forum. Alongside a small number of key note plenary presentations on strengthening resilience to climate-related risks within the disaster risk reduction and agricultural sectors across West Africa, the majority of the workshop was undertaken through small group discussion and feedback. The workshop agenda is included in Annex 2, while all presentations are available at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zu5fs9eej1i9zz3/AAAjQXwyTeGopPxLARYYoUJ4a?dl=0>.

Small group exercises were framed from the Participatory Impact Pathways Analysis¹ approach, including problem tree analysis and network mapping, alongside exercises tailored to identify the researcher capacities, policy-maker technical support and resources required to enable WASCAL to develop decision-relevant climate information and develop a road map for operationalising these. The workshop also included a Café Scientifique, enabling presentation and discussion of a number of knowledge-exchange approaches being employed in Senegal and within the AMMA-2050 project.

2.0 Workshop opening and participants' expectations

The workshop started with welcome messages and overviews of the work and focus of both hosting bodies.

WASCAL aims to become one of Africa's leading institutions in the provision of climate services in and for West Africa. It brings together expertise from Germany, its ten West African member countries – Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo - as well as other international and regional partners. One of WASCAL's strategic objectives is to strengthen the capacities of the next generation of scientists and policy makers, providing intimate knowledge of climate-related issues in order to enable the development of suitable coping strategies and evidence-based engagement in international climate change policy discussions.

Funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) programme, AMMA-2050 seeks to strengthen understanding of how the West African

¹Participatory Impact Pathways Analysis (PIPA) wiki
<http://pipamethodology.pbworks.com/w/page/70283575/Home%20Page>

monsoon will change in future decades and how this information can support medium-term (5-50 year) development decision-making. The consortium comprises fifteen partnering organisations from across West Africa, the UK and France. The project is running two pilots, one in Senegal focused on climate-resilient agriculture and one in Burkina Faso, seeking to strengthen flood-resilient planning for Ouagadougou. Both pilots have employed a range of approaches to support the co-production of climate information that can effectively support specific decision-making processes.

The opening session included an exercise to enable participants to get to know one another and reflect on their expectations of the workshop. Participants' expectations included sharing emerging learning on:

- existing approaches and methods for developing climate services and efficiently communicating science-based information to decision makers; and
- tools, models and approaches that can help decision makers use research outputs in dealing with climate-related risks.

3.0 What are the missing links between researchers and policymakers?

Participants were divided between four working groups to undertake a problem tree exercise, to examine the underlying reasons for why there are missing links between researchers and policymakers in enabling climate science to better support decision-making in West Africa. Each group concluded by identifying a specific issue, or determinant, that WASCAL can seek to address in strengthening researcher-policymaker linkages in this area.

Figure 1 provides an example of one group's output from the exercise. The issues and determinants identified by other groups are summarised below.

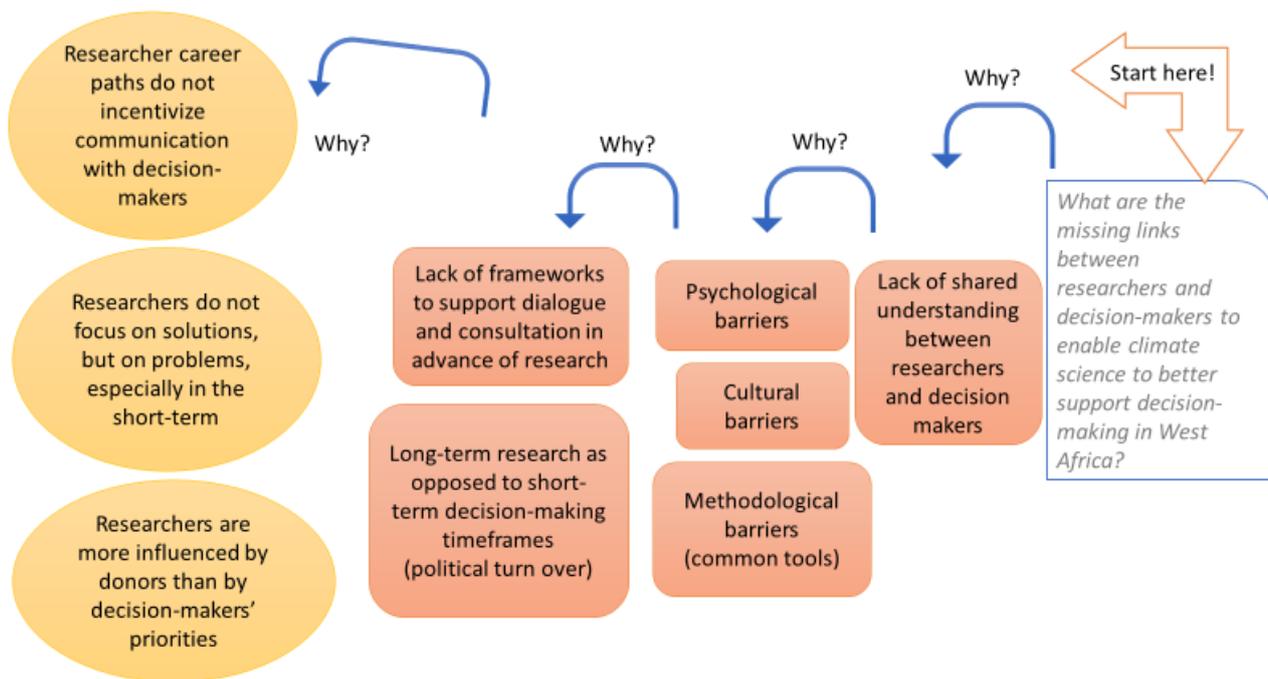


Figure 1: One group’s problem tree analysis of ‘What are the missing links between researchers and decision makers to enable climate science to better support decision-making in West Africa?’. The exercise starts on the right, with the identified question to address. The group discuss four times ‘why’ this is a problem (orange shapes), to identify the key issues, or determinants (yellow shapes), that WASCAL can seek to address.

Based on group report back to the plenary, underlying issues that result in climate science not effectively supporting decision-making in West Africa include:

- inadequate strategies for communicating climate science;
- research findings are inaccessible and provided in overly technical language, contributing to the perceived lack of utility of research to support decision-making;
- lack or insufficiency of regular channels for dialogue between scientists, policymakers, populations and funders;
- uncertainty in research findings creates lack of confidence amongst decision makers in scientific outputs;
- lack of shared understanding and vision, as well as differences between the timescales, priorities and objectives of scientists and decision-makers;
- lack of medium- and long-term development policies based on science;
- research is informed by international research funding agencies rather than the priorities of West African policymakers;
- in the short-term, researchers focus more on problems than solutions;
- decision makers do not proactively engage with researchers;
- failure to engage decision makers in framing research;
- research career paths and reward systems do not incentivise the communication, or efforts to support uptake, of research findings with decision makers.

4.0 Approaches and ongoing initiatives for enabling climate information to support decision making within the region

Alongside plenary presentations by WASCAL and ECOWAS of initiatives related to strengthening disaster risk reduction and resilience to climate-related risks across the region, ISRA and CIRAD shared a range of approaches to support science-policy-practitioner dialogue being employed in Senegal. The latter were provided within a Café Scientifique, with participants moving in small groups between presentations on Theatre Forum, Participatory Modelling and Innovation Platforms. 2iE subsequently presented the range of engagement approaches being employed within the AMMA-2050 pilot in Burkina Faso.

4.1 Plenary Presentations

Prototype of Agro-Climatic Information Services against pluviometric extremes in West African Sahel

Dr Seyni Salack, WASCAL, outlined an initiative piloting agro-climatic information services for addressing erratic rainfall events, including false onset, extreme dry spells, heavy rain events, early cessation, off-season rains, flood and drought. The initiative also considered whether extreme rain events can be exploited to intensify crop production. Case studies were carried out in the Sudanian savanna following a climatic gradient. The study identified factors limiting the uptake and use of climate information, including perceptions of risk, access to credit, gender, farmer experience and level of literacy. It determined farmers' climate and related technical information requirements and assessed the performance of the developed prototype services in pluviometric extremes. The study revealed that, despite the problematic rainy season of 2017, agro-climatic information services, including climate-smart technologies and practises, increased yields and by-products of staple crops across demonstration farms.

Disaster Risk Reduction Practice, Research and Capacity Building Support to ECOWAS

Dr Belko Abdoul Aziz Diallo, WASCAL, presented this project which is implemented by a consortium led by WASCAL and funded by the ACP-EU Programme via the World Bank. It seeks to address the impact of climate extremes, including flooding, recognised to have resulted in significant socio-economic losses across the region in recent years.

The project seeks to develop guidelines on disaster risk management for ECOWAS and strengthen the capacity of ECOWAS Member States through:

- Studying floods and transboundary disasters in the region;
- Developing a regional flood forecasting system integrating existing regional and national systems and providing guidance on open data management;
- Developing a policy note on a regional approach for post-disaster management and reconstruction planning, capacity building and support through institutions in the region, such as universities;
- Facilitating the training and capacity building of the ECOWAS Commission and experts from Member States on flood forecasting, disaster preparedness and disaster recovery planning;

- Providing advice on strengthening the academic network related to disaster risk management across disciplines in West Africa and contributing to relevant regional conferences.

Project review has assessed flood characteristics and damages across West Africa in the 1966-2017 period, transboundary river basins in West Africa, flood forecasting system for the Oti river in Togo and Ghana, and the disaster risk reduction management plans, policies and institutions within ECOWAS member States.

Outputs initiated through the project to date include a newsletter dedicated to flood-related disaster risk management in West Africa, “Flood Watch West Africa” (<https://projects.wascal.org/wb/index.php/2018/12/17/floodwatch-no1-english-version/>), and the WASCAL Data Discovery (WADI) Portal (https://wascal-dataportal.org/wascal_searchportal2/).

Meeting the climate information needs of regional decision makers

Mr Alfa Ibrahim Ahmed, ECOWAS Commission, presented an overview of ECOWAS activities related to climate services, including: a climate change project under implementation, the previously presented DRR project, early warning activities and the ECOWAS Hydromet programme. The achievements of ECOWAS in regard to these activities can be summarised as follow:

- ECOWAS Projects and Programmes have brought Member states together, especially during the Regional Climate Outlook Forum (RCOF);
- ECOWAS has succeeded in supporting member states in resource mobilization to implement weather and climate projects; and
- It has also collaborated with regional technical bodies, including WASCAL, AGRHYMET and ACMAD, to implement climate services projects in the region.

The challenges faced by ECOWAS projects related to climate services are not different from other projects. These include insufficiency of funding and staffing, overdependence on international donors, and inadequate cooperation among member states. To meet the climate information needs of decision makers requires increased cooperation among the regional technical bodies, including AGRHYMET and ACMAD; more accurate weather and climate services and increased research and training; technical support for ECOWAS projects and programmes and sector-specific climate information; flood monitoring and forecasting; and climate information on Marine Services.

He reassured participants that ECOWAS will continue to support its member states on improving climate information services for better integration and economic development of the region. Moreover, ECOWAS will continue to collaborate with the regional technical bodies, especially WASCAL with which it already has an MoU, for better access and use of climate information services in the region.

In responding to the presentation on ECOWAS climate-related activities, Dr Sylla and Dr Diedhiou stressed the need of collaboration between regional research centres for better achievements in West Africa.

Opportunity for engaging with the proposed African Climate Risk Assessment (ACRA) Conference 2019

Via Web-ex, Dr Zablon Owiti, from SouthSouth North and the Coordination, Capacity Development and Knowledge Exchange (CCKE) unit for the FCFA programme, outlined the proposed conference due to be held alongside Africa Climate Conference 2019 and Africa Hydromet Forum. The aims of the African Climate Risk Assessment (ACRA) Conference are to:

- Take stock on progress on African climate science and services research priorities;
- Co-identify and update common priorities for an African research agenda to serve climate services and development through African-led collective discussion;
- Bridge the gap between research frontier and operational service delivery for climate services via tailored exchange;
- Share results, lessons, good practices and challenges; and
- Update development partners on current initiatives and identify priority areas for coordinated donor support.

DFID are willing to contribute to the conference and other potential funding sources are being approached, including NORAD, the World Bank and USAID. The conference will be convened under the auspices of key global, regional and national institutions including UNECA-ACPC, WMO-GFCS and WMO-AMCOMET. This presentation at the WASCAL-AMMA workshop served to solicit WASCAL's partnership in the conference and nomination of a WASCAL representative to the Conference Steering Committee.

4.2 Café Scientifique: Combinations of approaches being employed in science-policy-practice exchange in Senegal

During the Café Scientifique, all participants were introduced to three approaches:

Plateau game and participatory modelling

Dr Francois Affholder, CIRAD, presented how a "plateau game" (Figure 2) and participatory modelling have been employed within research on the impacts of climate change in the peanut basin in Senegal.

Within AMMA-2050 research, the Plateau game has been employed to:

- present scientific knowledge and uncertainties on the impacts of climate change on crops;
- discuss potential climate change adaptation with farmers;
- identify adaptation strategies developed by farmers; and
- check and refine the key hypotheses of the coupled ANDERS–CELSIUS model that is being used to assess the impact of a range of economic policies and issues related to food production and security.



Figure 2: Farmers playing Plateau game. As shown, the climate card has white, grey and blue cells representing the weather that occurred during the agricultural season on each field of the board: grey is bad year (dry in this instance of the game), white is average year and blue is a good year. Source: CIRAD

In the “TerriStories” Plateau game:

- Participants take the role of farmers with resources to manage across several activities, including crops and livestock.
- Several farms are represented on a wooden board, with squares symbolizing fields, and simple rules defining production according to resources, inputs used, and the climate.
- For each round of the game, a "climate card" (a card with white, grey and blue cells, visible in Figure 2) is drawn, giving climate distribution according to the fields. Climate cards and their impact on crops are designed to reflect climatologists' scenarios (CMIP5).

The process is interspersed with discussion as participants reflect on what is happening in the game. All discussions are recorded, transcribed and analysed.

Participatory modelling was supported through subsequent workshops with (sub-state) regional decision-makers and representatives of the agricultural profession, as well as with ISRA scientists engaged with senior national decision makers. The workshops promoted two-way learning amongst the researchers and participants. It enabled discussion about the methodological limitations and robustness of results, identified possible biases in the hypotheses treated in this work and determined possible new hypotheses. This process enabled the researchers to learn about issues that had not been addressed but need to be considered in the model if it is to reflect actual situations.

Participants were interested in the details of what the ANDERS–CELSIUS model could represent and how it is used.

- The board in the Plateau game is a representation of how the model describes the different fields at farm level.
- The plateau game highlights the competition that exists between livestock and crops, including grazing pressures across seasons.

The Plateau Game requires resources to be run effectively. It is run over a number of days with a large group of people from different regions and backgrounds. However, it was appreciated as a sound method for (i) gathering input of realistic situations; (ii) explaining how the model works and what it takes into account; and (iii) engaging all participants (users and researchers) in the iterative process of model development and increased understanding of the potential impacts of future climate.

Theatre Forum (TF)

Theatre Forum (TF), presented by Dr Laure Tall, ISRA, is a form of participatory theatre employed to discuss power relations between different actors (Figure 3). It is designed to support social transformation, rather than the awareness raising supported by educational theatre. TF promotes dialogue between actors on an equal basis, as well as encouraging actors to reflect on their own behaviour.

There are three main stages to TF:

- actors play a story inspired by real events that cause tensions between them;
- a moderator then invites spectators to discuss their feelings, interpretations and suggestions for resolving the tensions observed; and
- spectators come on stage to replace one or more actors to test possible solutions and discuss them collectively.

TF has been used as a collaborative research methodology across a range of scientific disciplines, supporting exchanges between diverse actors, including scientists and civil society actors. It has been successfully employed in Senegal through a range of natural resource management projects (examples available at: <http://www.bastien-defives.fr/albums/collaboration-avec-la-recherche/>).

Excerpts from a film on how TF was used within a genetic resources project demonstrated how the approach supports discussion across actors to collectively develop practical solutions. The Senegalese TF group Kaddu Yarakh has further developed the TF approach. After the initial performance and to support discussion, they hold a trial of each character, inviting spectators to judge whether the character's behaviour was good, bad or in the middle.

AMMA-2050 partners are developing a TF piece to promote discussion on climate change impacts on agriculture and adaptive strategies. Set in 2050, a journalist is preparing a documentary trying to understand why those regions that were the principal production areas for the Sahel region, are now desert with no agricultural activities and the reasons why, from the options available in 2010,

decisions were taken leading to the resulting situation in 2050. In 2019, the piece is due to be played with some of the project's key stakeholder groups and amongst AMMA2050 partners themselves.



Figure 3: Theatre forum organized in Senegal, source: ISRA, Senegal

Participants welcome and recognised the value of TF. They discussed whether TF could be used with senior decision makers, and agreed that, if undertaken carefully, it could be an effective way of engaging them. Also raised was the issue of the resources required to employ TF.

Innovation Platform

Dr Moussa SALL, ISRA, presented the “innovation platform” where a network of actors concerned with a particular value chain collectively consider technical, social and institutional constraints in order to together create innovation. Learning takes place at individual, organisational and institutional levels and is focused on the process of interaction rather than technical or product-specific solutions. Innovation platform actors have developed shared objectives, norms, procedures and conflict-resolution mechanism, even if these are not formally written.

The different steps in the process of establishing an innovation platform include i) creating a collective, ii) formalizing questions, iii) creating alliances, iv) co-constructing a project and v) co-constructing and sharing responses. An innovation platform for baobab fruit in Tamba and Kédougou, Senegal, has promoted knowledge about the socio-economic production environment and reviewed policy options, including legal reform.

This method is sustainable because all stakeholders agreed to reinvest income generated through it for maintaining the platform beyond the duration of the project. It has the potential to be an entry point for transforming siloed ways of working and organisations' incentives for career progression. For example, it promoted researchers' career advancement based on methodological publications that could be used by policymakers. Participants were particularly interested in some of the challenges arising from this method. For example, with many of the same governmental actors involved in different topics and themes, participants questioned whether the need for topic-specific platforms risks duplication and wasting of resources.

There was also an interesting discussion around formal and informal aspects of setting up an innovation platform. The presenter highlighted that while innovation platforms have not been formalised, they are being initiated and supported by government actors. It is important, he concluded, to focus on the innovation platform as a method and tool that can be adapted to different political and subject-specific situations.

Combinations of approaches being employed in the AMMA-2050 pilot in Burkina Faso

Dr Fowe Tazen, 2iE, outlined how population growth and increased urbanisation are combining with increasing frequency and intensity of rainfall to heighten flood-risks in Ouagadougou. To develop tools and approaches that can support the integration of flood-risk within urban planning, the project reviewed the decision-making process at national and mayoral levels, surveyed decision makers' meteorological and climate information needs, developed a flood knowledge base, developed a hydro-meteorological monitoring network and has undertaken hydrological and hydraulic modelling.

A series of engagements with stakeholders engaged in flood-risk management has enabled discussion on the constraints related to the low use of climate information, as well as affording the opportunity to present and discuss a range of products developed through the project. This has supported the co-production of climate information products tailored to supporting specific decision-making processes. Dr James Miller, CEH, outlined how the project proposes supporting participatory modelling, engaging stakeholders in identifying scenarios of changes in land-use, including dams, and infrastructural development, which the project can model.

A breakout group discussion focused on enabling dialogue between the decision makers present and scientists from AMMA-2050 and WASCAL to identify: which upcoming decision-making processes AMMA-2050 tools and outputs could most usefully inform; who project partners should be engaging with; and what format the tools should take to enable greatest uptake. The discussion highlighted that the Master plan of Ouagadougou (SDAGO 2025) is due to be revisited soon and could provide an opportunity for sharing AMMA-2050 learning on future climate risks.

5.0 What is required to enable WASCAL to develop decision-relevant climate information?

To develop a road map for how WASCAL can strengthen the links between researchers and decision-makers required to enable effective use of climate research within decision-making, participants worked in small groups to address the following questions:

- What capacities do researchers need to develop climate information that can effectively support decision makers?
- What types of technical support do stakeholders require?
- What resources are needed to support science-policy dialogues?

The following table summarises the inputs from across small-group discussions:

<i>What capacities do researchers need to develop climate information which can effectively support decision makers?</i>

- Ensure a climate services coordinator to make the links between researchers and decision makers;
- Adapt tools and methods for communicating research findings;
- Develop an interdisciplinary team bringing together academic and non-academic actors;
- Enable discussion between decision makers and scientists on research priorities;
- WASCAL requires technical expertise in marine forecasting and climate services, as well as in areas vital to supporting engagement with decision makers, including communications. Currently additionally required specialisms, such as communications, are engaged for specific projects.
- Ensuring respect of different points of view and not labelling perspectives as “them” versus “us”.
- Recognition that decision makers can be strong advocates in lobbying for increasing uptake and support for climate research.
- Building researchers’ capacities is, in turn, linked to strengthening infrastructure and ensuring stable research funding.

What types of technical support do stakeholders require?

- Sensitization on climate information;
- Capacity building on climate change and its impact, including establishing understanding of key science-based concepts and standards;
- Improvement of skills on how to better use existing materials (maps, graphs, images);
- Training on communication channels (for example, employing social media networks);
- Training on open source tools;
- Improve exchange framework between scientists and policymakers (for example, using the innovation platform approach and policy briefs);
- Identify a national or regional institution that can be used as reference adviser.

What resources are needed to support the science-policy dialogues?

- Frameworks for consultation at local, national, regional levels;
- Focal points;
- An annual regional workshop.

To mobilize financial resources, there is a need to:

- Demonstrate the added value of scientific information; and
- Take full advantage of natural disasters and humanitarian crises.

6.0 Mapping key stakeholders needed to strengthen links between researchers and decision makers: who is currently involved and who needs to be involved

Continuing to work in small groups, participants produced a network mapping of key stakeholders that need to be engaged to enable strengthened linkages between researchers and policymakers. This involved, firstly, identifying those stakeholders that are currently engaged and existing linkages between these actors and, secondly, identifying the additional actors that need to be engaged and linkages that need to be established.

Each group developed their network mapping in relation to the key problem or determinant identified within the workshop's initial Problem Tree exercise (see Section 3). Key problems addressed through the network mapping included:

- Mismatches between the priorities of researchers and decision-makers;
- Research oriented to donor rather than decision maker priorities;
- Research results not integrated by decision makers in policies and programmes;
- Lack of motivation for researchers to work with decision-makers.

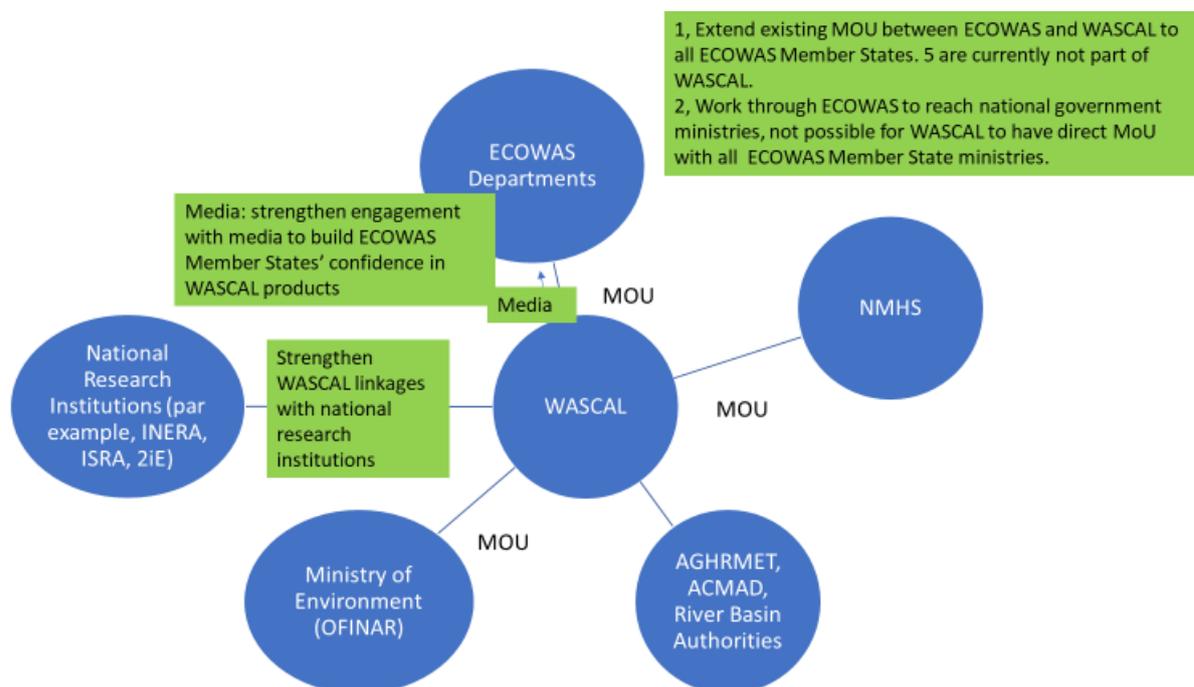


Figure 4: Example of group network mapping, identifying those stakeholders that need to be engaged to strengthen linkages between researchers and decision makers

The results of the working group discussions are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of working groups' network mapping of key stakeholders

Currently involved actors				Actors that need to be involved, or whose engagement needs strengthening
<i>International, regional and national research institutions</i>	<i>Regional & continental Institutions</i>	<i>Technical and financial partners</i>	<i>Policymakers and national institutions</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASCAL • CILSS • Universities • ACMAD • CNRST • CIRAD • IRD • 2IE • IPCC • CGIAR • AGRYMET 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECOWAS • Africa Union (AU) • UEMOA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World bank • BAD • NGO • CORAF • AGRA • Bilateral cooperation agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP/CNDD • Presidents and their technical advisors • ANAM • Ministries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities: mayors and their technical advisors • Civil society organisations • Private sector • Media <p>Extend ECOWAS-WASCAL MoU to the 5 member states not yet part of WASCAL</p> <p>Strengthen linkages with research institutions within West Africa</p>



Figure 5: Working group session during WASCAL-AMMA 2050 workshop; Source: WASCAL

7.0 Developing an agreed road map on how WASCAL can operationalise the links between researchers and policymakers

In the final workshop session, groups were asked to develop a road map for how WASCAL can operationalise the links between researchers and policymakers. Outlined in greater detail in Table 2, the groups proposed a wide range of proposals including:

- Developing systems that incentivise researcher engagement with policy makers and decision takers;
- Developing a module on communication and policy engagement in WASCAL graduate schools;
- Reinforcing WASCAL's Public Relations Office and Communications Unit, strengthening the organisation's Communication Strategy and use of approaches effective for both public engagement and science-policy engagement;
- Establishing a science-policy broker in WASCAL to identify entry points and develop tailored messages for key policy processes, as well as monitoring and responding to significant emerging issues, such as major flood events;
- Strengthening WASCAL's MoUs with partnering institutions;
- Identifying regular opportunities for ongoing training and sharing of emerging learning on approaches that support effective engagement with policy makers and decision makers; and
- Conducting a survey of decision makers' perceptions of WASCAL, undertaking a cost-benefit analysis to demonstrate the value of evidence-based policy making; and developing with ECOWAS a joint training for policy makers to strengthen capacities for making effective use of scientific findings.

8.0 Reflection, concluding remarks and workshop evaluation

8.1 Reflection

In plenary reflection within the workshop, participants noted that, while often raised, few seriously address or provide practical ways of strengthening researcher engagement with policy makers and decision takers. Approaches shared within the workshop demonstrated that engagement with decision makers can be undertaken in entertaining ways, including serious games, theatre forum and the plateau game.

8.2 Concluding remarks

In their closing remarks, Dr Bamba Sylla, WASCAL, and Dr Chris Taylor, AMMA-2050, thanked everyone for their active participation and contributions to making the workshop a success. Dr Arona Diedhiou, Chair of the WASCAL Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), recognised this workshop as a significant initiative for developing strategically important regional linkages between researchers and policymakers.

Table 2: Working group proposals on how WASCAL can operationalise the links between researchers and policymakers

Activities to develop the required capacities, approaches and partnerships	WASCAL Focal point	Stakeholders to engage	Resources (available or required)
Develop a module on communication and engagement with policy makers in WASCAL graduate schools to improve the communication of research results to decision-makers	Capacity building department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universities (WASCAL’s Master Research Programmes and Graduate Research Programmes) • Students 	Available
Continuous training for researchers and development of tools and approaches for communicating research findings with decision-makers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying spaces for co-production from project inception, demonstrating to funders the priorities of researchers, policymakers and local populations; - Identify opportunities for key stakeholders to address cultural, psychological and methodological barriers and develop aligned priorities; and - Creation with decision makers of common practice tools and opportunities to update these through ongoing feedback. 	Capacity building department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universities (WASCAL’s Master Research Programmes and Graduate Research Programmes) • Researchers 	Available
Identify constraints to the integration of climate information in regional and national policies		"Public hacker" (Experienced consultant) Institutions with policies related to climate	Required
Establish and strengthen MoUs between WASCAL and partner institutions (based on the identification of constraints and needs of institutions)	WASCAL Director of Research	Partnering research institutions Relevant ministries and government agencies	Required
Creation / development of an exchange platform on climate services and climate	WASCAL Competence Centre	All institutions (research, public, private)	Required
Transmit the report of this workshop to WASCAL management team in order to request the setting up of a mechanism to motivate researcher engagement with policymakers	WASCAL management team		

Activities to develop the required capacities, approaches and partnerships	WASCAL Focal point	Stakeholders to engage	Resources (available or required)
Reinforce the WASCAL Public Relations Office and Communications Unit to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop or improve the organisation’s Communication Strategy; - make use of effective communication and engagement tools for <i>public communication and engagement with policy makers</i>; and - develop or increase production of policy briefs. 	WASCAL PRO, WASCAL Board and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media • Social networks • Scientists 	Required
Conduct a survey of decision makers’ perceptions of WASCAL	WASCAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision-makers 	Available
Produce a cost-benefit analysis of scientific information	WASCAL		Available
ECOWAS organize together with WASCAL a training for policy makers to better understand research results and their usefulness	ECOWAS with WASCAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECOWAS • Decision-makers 	Required
Establishment of a Science/Policy broker at WASCAL to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -identify appropriate entry points; -ensure organisational monitoring of and response to trending issues, such as major flood events; - develop tailored messages for key institutions. 	WASCAL		Required
Maintain an active network of journalists	WASCAL PRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journalists 	
Workshops with the private sector		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	
Establish political placement(s)	WASCAL Board and Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	

8.3 Workshop evaluation

In evaluating the workshop, 74% of participants found it very useful. All participating scientists considered the workshop either very useful or useful in improving their ability to provide research that supports responses to climate variability and change. All participating decision-makers found the workshop either very helpful or helpful in identifying and acting on opportunities to support the integration of climate change information into decision making.

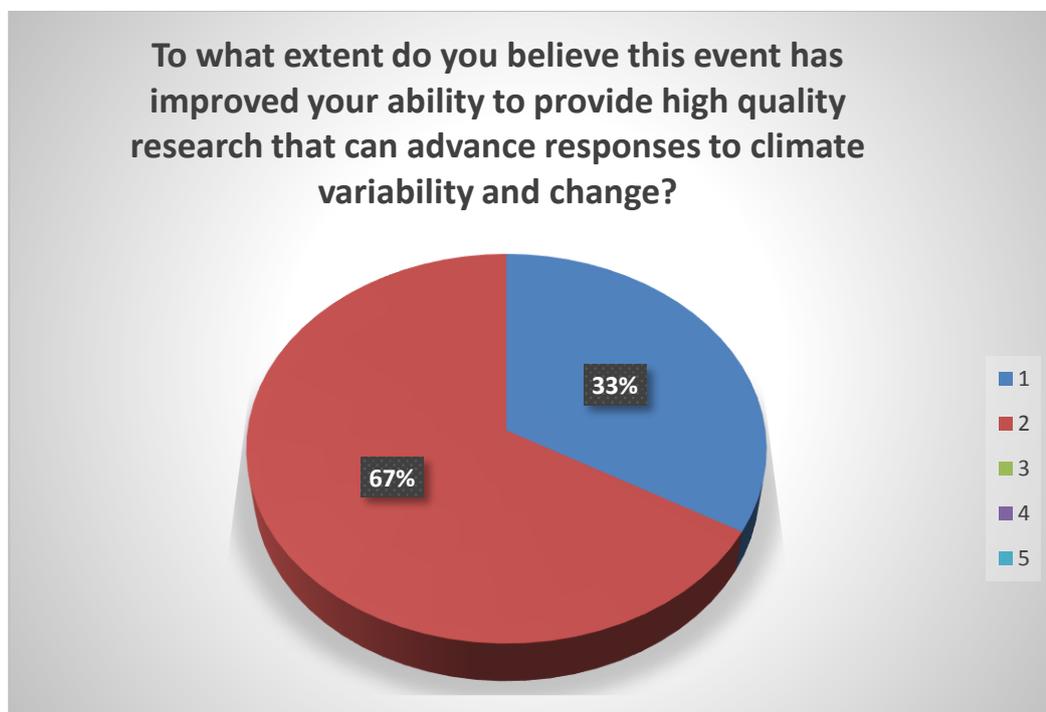


Figure 6: Findings from the workshop evaluation form

Participants appreciated the workshop focus on group work, providing a space for discussion and sharing of ideas. Many participants particularly welcomed the dialogue approaches presented within the Café Scientifique. All participants reported that they are likely to use knowledge acquired through the workshop within their work. Proposals included strengthening researcher training on policy-engagement and employing the approaches demonstrated within the workshop. Responses highlighted the importance of including decision-makers from the inception of research, supporting the ‘co-development of research topics with development actors’, including ‘impact for decision-makers within research’, and ‘putting science-policy interface closer to the centre of future science proposals. Participants identified a need for further training on communication and tools that support science-policy dialogue.

Annexes

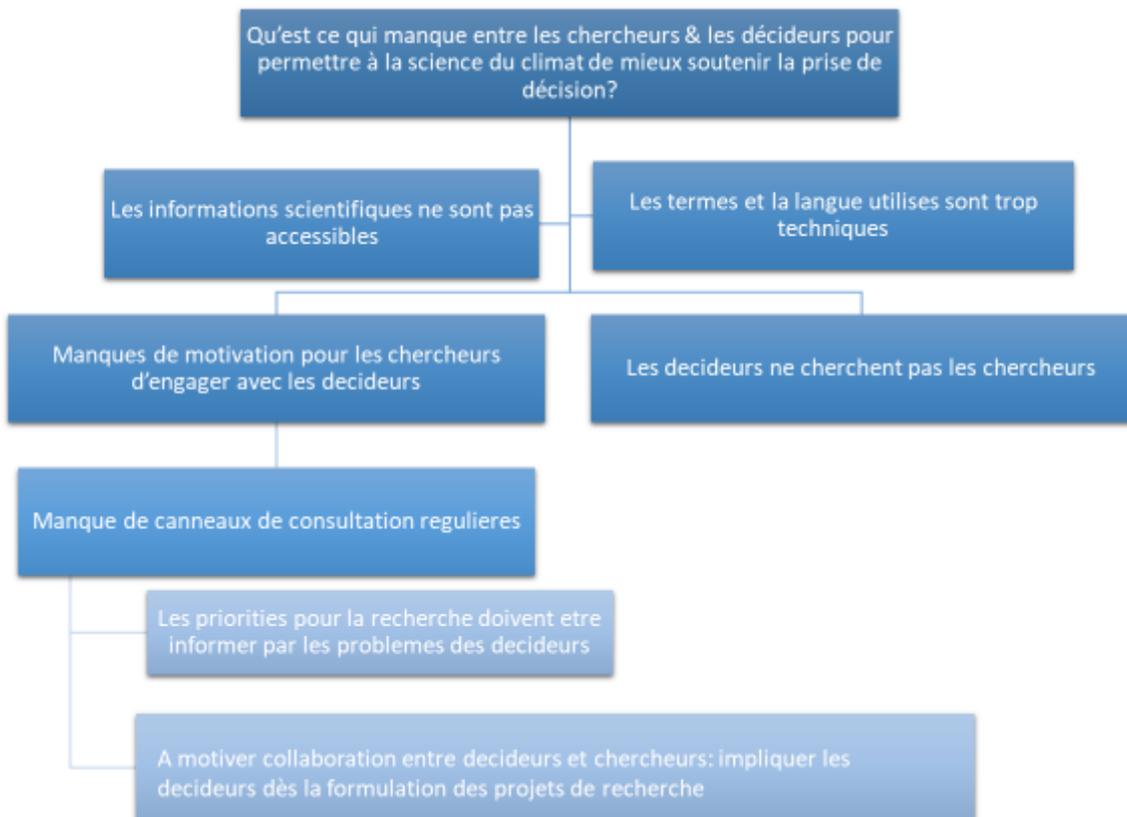
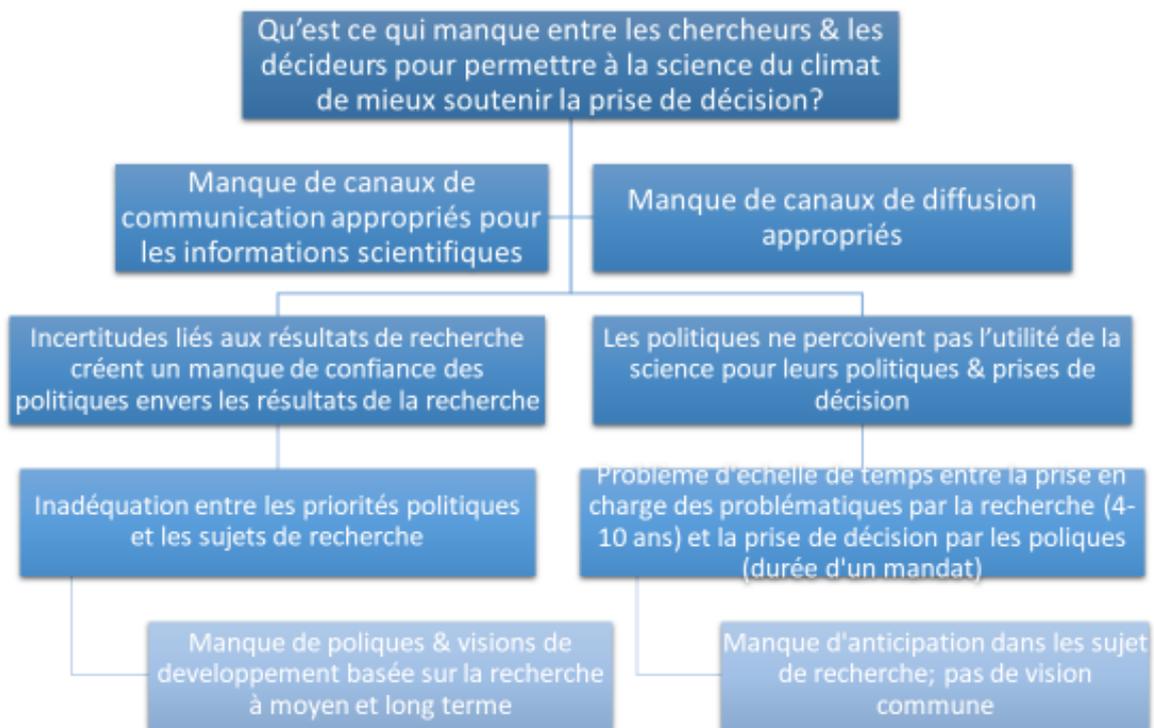
Annex 1. Attendance list of the WASCAL-AMMA 2050 Workshop OUAGADOUGOU 14-15 November 2018

Annex 2. Workshop agenda

Day 1		
Part I: Introductions and starting from a common understanding		
0800-0830	Participants arrival and registration	Diane Sawadogo/Hacheme
0830-0840	Welcome addresses (2x5mn)	WASCAL + AMMA2050
0840-0845	Aims of workshop	Dr Oble Neya, WASCAL
0845-0850	Introducing partners: People meet each other and share their expectations	Participants
0850-0900	Participants' expectations	WASCAL + AMMA2050
0900-0905	Agreeing on 'ways of working' for the workshop	Participants
0905-0920	General presentation of WASCAL and current WASCAL plans and proposed strategy Particularly related to the Competence Centre and strengthening links between researchers and decisionmakers across West Africa	Dr Mahamadou Bamba Sylla, WASCAL
0920-0930	Overview of the AMMA2050 project and its collaboration in the workshop	Chris Taylor, CEH,
0930-1100	What are the missing links between researchers and policymakers? Clarifying the problem, we are seeking to address Brief overview of the processes we are seeking to support followed by problem tree exercise with all participants in groups and plenary feedback Visioning the way forward Participants outline a view of how WASCAL can strengthen the links between researchers and policymakers in West Africa	Tanya Warnars, CEH
1100-1130	Tea/coffee	
1100-1120	Report back from problem tree and visioning	Tanya Warnars, CEH
1120-1130	Prototype agro-climatic information services against pluviometric extremes in West African Sahel	Salack Seyni, WASCAL
1130-1300	Combinations of approaches being employed in the pilot in Senegal Plateforme d'innovation, Plateau game, Participatory modelling, Theatre Forum Theatre Forum Excerpts of the theatre forum in practice Raising discussion on the need to ensure benefits/impact for all partners engaged in collaborations between researchers, policymakers, decision makers	Laure Tall, Moussa Sall, ISRA, Francois Affholder, CIRAD
1300-1400	Lunch	
1400-1500	Combinations of approaches being employed in the pilot in Burkina Faso PIPA, Participatory modelling, Café scientifique Sharing the participatory modelling process to support flood-resilient planning in Ouagadougou	Fowe Tazen, 2iE, James Miller, CEH
1500-1545	Meeting the climate information needs of regional decision makers Disaster risk reduction practice Research and Capacity Building Support to ECOWAS	ECOWAS Hydromet/other Directorates with CEH Belko Abdoul Aziz Diallo

1545-1600	Tea/coffee	
1600-1700	<p>What is required to enable WASCAL to develop decision-relevant climate information?</p> <p>Reflecting on Day 1 presentations and discussions, participants discuss in small groups and plenary feedback on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What <i>capacities</i> do researchers need to develop climate information which can effectively support decision makers? • What types of technical support do stakeholders require? • What resources are needed to support the science-policy dialogues? <p>Small group discussion and plenary feedback.</p>	AMMA-2050 facilitate
1830-2030	Cocktail Diner at Princess YENNEGA lodge	
Day 2		
0830-0900	Review of Day 1 and what is required for Day 2	
0900-1030	<p>Network mapping</p> <p>Mapping the stakeholders key to strengthening links between researchers and decisionmakers: identifying who is currently involved and who needs to be involved</p>	Camilla Audia, KCL facilitate
1030-1045	<p>Opportunities for engaging with the Africa Climate Conference 2019</p> <p>Brief skype presentation and discussion on the concept and current support</p>	Zablone Owiti, FCFA Coordination, Capacity Development and Knowledge Exchange (CCKE) Unit
1045-1115	Break	
1115-1230	<p>Developing an agreed road map on how WASCAL can operationalise the links between researchers and policymakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the recognised WASCAL capacities (as identified at the end of Day 1) be ensured? • How can WASCAL enable decision makers to access regional research capacities? <p>Outlining the principal activities, approaches, partnerships and timing for enabling WASCAL to strengthen the climate resilience of West Africa through supporting linkages between researchers and policymakers within the region.</p>	WASCAL facilitate
1230-1300	<p>Agreement on next steps</p> <p>End of meeting</p>	WASCAL and CEH

Annex 3. Problem trees developed by workshop groups



Qu'est ce qui manque entre les chercheurs & les décideurs pour permettre à la science du climat de mieux soutenir la prise de décision?

- Need to identify the NEEDS of policy makers
- Appropriate funding methods to allow engagement with different policy makers
- Mis-match between research and national and local development plans
- Appropriate communications strategy for guiding engagements with decision makers
- Slow uptake of research results by policy makers