

progress on long-term goals of the PA through the GST process.

✓ Leverage on resources and processes available to secure more funds for its long-term full operationalization.

Engagement of the iGST-WA Regional Hub with the GST process

✓ Inclusion of relevant points in the iGST joint submissions to the GST process.

✓ Interfacing with negotiators and policymakers directly in the West Africa/E-COWAS region to advocate for points of interest.

✓ Influencing the broader advocacy by climate civil society organization to push for certain advocacy points covering

regional priorities (e.g., specific calls on adaptation issues).

Main principles guiding the project

✓ Visibility of the climate civil society actions and contributions to the global process of GST.

✓ Participation and inclusivity (as the project deals with francophone, anglophone, and lusophone countries) so that activities are open for broad, meaningful, and effective participation of all climate civil society stakeholders in West Africa.

✓ Opportunities for the iGST-WA Regional Hub to remain active beyond the project lifetime.

pillars: research, services provision, and capacity building program in 12 Graduate Studies Programs (GSPs) hosted in different universities of its 12-member countries across West Africa. As a regional institution, WASCAL through its Competence Centre is implementing and hosting the iGST-WA Regional Hub, by leveraging its experience from past stakeholders' consultations in West Africa. Thus, WASCAL provides both technical and multilanguage expertise for effective interaction and

dialogue within the climate civil society in West Africa and offers the needed analytical (including information and technology) and administrative support in all activities leading to the formation and sustainable operationalization of the iGST-WA Regional Hub.

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About CSIR

CSIR is a leading scientific and technology research organization that researches and develops transformative technologies to accelerate socioeconomic prosperity in South Africa through leading innovation. Its mission is to collaboratively innovate and localise technologies while

providing knowledge solutions for the inclusive and sustainable advancement of industry and society. The beliefs and principles of CSIR, as well as it wishes to improve the quality of life of South Africans are EPIC i.e., pursues Excellence, celebrates People, personifies Integrity, and welcomes Collaboration. Drawing from its vast experience in climate change global policy engagements in UNFCCC,

UNCCD, CBD, IPBES, and IPCC processes, CSIR serve as a technical backup/support of WASCAL for the formation and the operationalization of the iGST-WA Regional Hub.

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About ClimateWorks Foundation

The mission of ClimateWorks Foundation is to end the climate crisis by amplifying the power of philanthropy. Over the past decade, it has built a global platform for

philanthropy to innovate and accelerate climate solutions that scale. The global programs and services of ClimateWorks Foundation equip philanthropy with knowledge, networks, and solutions to drive climate progress. The iGST-WA Regional Hub is fully funded by the ClimateWorks Foundation.

Since 2008, the Foundation has granted over \$1.3 billion to more than 600 grantees in over 50 countries in the world.

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THE INDEPENDENT GLOBAL STOCKTAKE (iGST)

iGST West Africa Regional Hub Project





Rationale and description of the project

What is the Global Stocktake?

Adopted in 2015, the Paris Agreement (PA) is a legally binding international treaty on climate change that aims to strengthen the global response to climate change by keeping a global average temperature rise well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. The Agreement requires an assessment of the world's collective progress towards climate mitigation, adaptation, and finance goals every five years through an exercise known as the Global Stocktake (GST). Specifically, Article 14 of the PA states that "the Conference Of Parties (COP) shall periodically take stock of the implementation of this Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving its purpose and its long-term goals". Thus, implemented under the authority of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the GST is geared towards empowering countries to increase their commitments (in terms of nationally determined contributions - NDCs) to the Paris Agreement and take bolder climate actions.

What is the Independent Global Stocktake?

The Independent Global Stocktake (iGST) is a consortium of regional civil society stakeholders/hubs and four independent thematic working groups on mitigation, adaptation, finance, and equity that work together to strongly support the implementation of the PA, and to efficiently contribute to the process of GST. These stakeholders include environment, women, and youth-based organizations, farmers and agricultural organizations, universities and research centres, business and industry organizations, indigenous people's organizations, trade union organizations, labour organizations, regional climate actors, local governments, and municipal authorities, etc. With this rich diversity of non-state stakeholders, iGST can provide complementary support for the achievement of the objectives of the PA by working powerfully together to ensure a well informed and robust GST that empowers and motivates countries to take more excellent climate actions. The iGST also realizing the political realities that constrain

the formal GST process, aims to go beyond the GST to ensure the stocktake moment generates maximum positive and long-lasting impacts.

What is the iGST West Africa Regional Hub?

The iGST West Africa (iGST-WA) Regional Hub is a network of climate civil societies organizations, and other stakeholders in West Africa (including all ECOWAS countries) that advocate for the implementation of the PA, and especially for the GST process. The quest of iGST-WA Regional Hub is to put forward a West African lens of climate change priorities and bring together the West African climate change community to advocate for representative, relevant, and responsive GST. Thus, the iGST-WA Regional Hub will facilitate the effective participation of West Africa climate civil society in the GST by providing a platform to engage all interested stakeholders on the priorities that highlight their expectations. It is in this framework that the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) and the Council of Scientific and

Industrial Research (CSIR) of South Africa have been commissioned by ClimateWorks Foundation to lead the formation and operationalization processes of the iGST-WA Regional Hub.



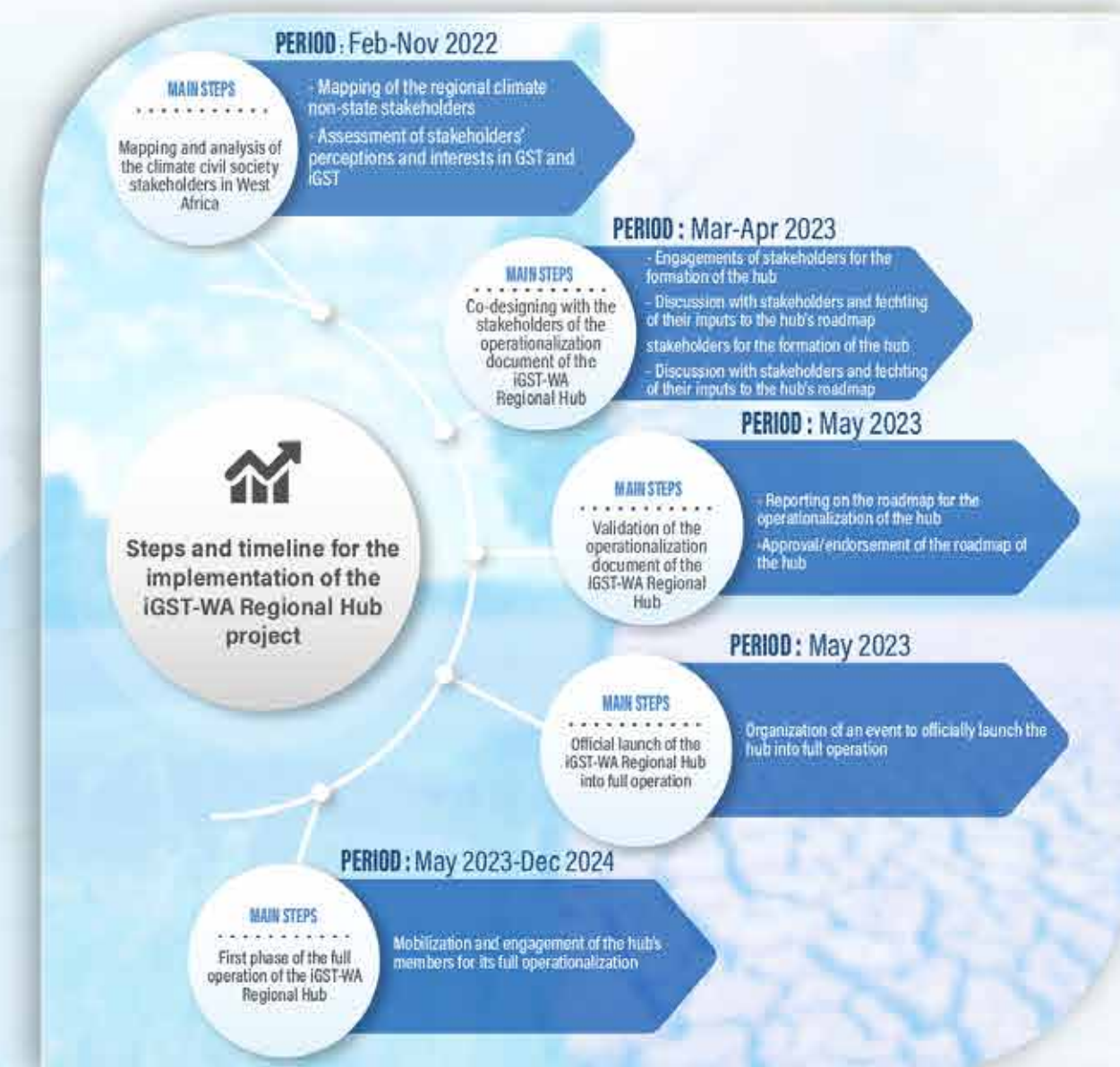
Objectives of the project

- ✓ Bring together climate civil society stakeholders, including campaigners and climate researchers to support the GST and to push for more climate action in West Africa.
- ✓ Provide a common platform for engagement among the stakeholders to communicate a coherent regionally relevant set of messages in West Africa and at the international level.
- ✓ Serve as a platform for mutual learning and knowledge sharing among the stakeholders recognising the evolving nature of needs and responses by respective countries in West Africa.

Implementation approach of the project and timeline

The iGST-WA Regional Hub project is implemented following a bottom-up approach in five main steps (Figure 1). The current phase

of the project began in 2022 and will last until the end of 2024. Guided by the stakeholders, it works towards making inputs into the first five-year GST process whose inputs span Nov 2021 -Nov 2023.



How will the iGST-WA Regional Hub operate?

- ✓ Ensure that the ownership of the hub belongs to the members through a bottom-up approach for the formation of the hub.
- ✓ Increase the accuracy, transparency, accountability, and relevance of the GST process, focusing on the issues

relevant to West Africa.

- ✓ Build the capacities of the members of the hub on the GST process, and harness, collate, and synthesize inputs from the climate civil society within the subregion.
- ✓ Draw from research conducted in different sectors in West Africa by ensuring that this yields a complete picture of