

THE INDEPENDENT GLOBAL STOCKTAKE (iGST) FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN WEST AFRICA

THE IGST WEST AFRICA REGIONAL HUB

OPERATIONALIZATION DOCUMENT



ACRONYMS

COP	Conference of Parties
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
GST	Global Stocktake
iGST	Independent Global Stocktake
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WA Hub	West Africa Regional Hub of iGST
WASCAL	West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)

ABOUT THE iGST INITIATIVE

The Independent Global Stocktake (iGST)¹ is a consortium of civil society players under the coordination of the ClimateWorks Foundation² and organized as a set of complementary workstreams including regional civil society hubs and four thematic working groups on Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance, and Equity, that work together to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement (through its contribution to the Global Stocktake - GST). The consortium thus engages non-Party stakeholders to provide independent and complementary insights and expertise into the progress made by the Parties in implementing the Agreement. The iGST also contributes to enhancing climate ambition under the Paris Agreement, helps to carry out technical reviews and multilateral considerations of reports submitted to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC³), raises questions of implementation for Parties to help ensure that the outcomes of review processes are taken up within countries and hold Parties to account if necessary.

The iGST West Africa Regional Hub, is a network of non-state climate change communities in West Africa that advocate for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and it is aimed at bringing the experience and visions of regional climate advocates, researchers, analysts, and practitioners toward enhancing climate action in the region to the iGST. Also, the iGST West Africa Regional Hub is a regional resource platform for mutual learning and knowledge sharing that ensures the sustainable and long-term involvement of civil society actors on climate change issues in West Africa to advocate and support a robust GST that captures the GST-related climate change priorities in the region (see **Annex 1**).

Partners



¹ <https://www.climateworks.org/independent-global-stocktake/>

² <https://www.climateworks.org/>

³ <https://unfccc.int/>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This operationalization document presents the proposed strategies (including the structure and means of engagement) and actions that bring together climate civil societies in West Africa towards forming a regional initiative of the independent Global Stocktake (iGST). The document is compiled, firstly, from a regional stakeholder mapping exercise that led to the characterization and assessment of the climate civil society organizations in terms of their activities as well as their perceptions on (and interests in) joining a regional iGST Hub. Secondly, the document also draws inputs from interviews with two (2) experts conducted during the Africa Climate Week 2022. Finally, the bulk of the inputs that were gathered from roundtable discussions with representatives of over 100 organizations in six national-level meetings conducted physically in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Benin, Nigeria, and Senegal (see Annex 1 for the list of contributing organizations). The objective of all these activities conducted in a bottom-up approach was to ensure that the document is co-developed with the members of the iGST West Africa Regional Hub (iGST WA Hub).

The objectives of the iGST WA Hub, in alignment with the overall iGST process, are to increase the accuracy, transparency, accountability, and relevance of the GST and to contribute to the global discourse on climate change priorities from a West African perspective. This is being achieved by bringing together the West African climate change community to advocate for representative, relevant, and responsive GST. Thus, the iGST West Africa Regional Hub will facilitate the effective participation of West Africa's climate civil society in the GST processes by providing a platform to enable all interested stakeholders to meaningfully self-organize and engage.

To achieve this objective and to ensure the effective participation of the members, two main levels of organization for the Hub have been identified through stakeholder consultations. These two levels of organization include: (1) the core workgroup which contains a secretariat as a subgroup, and (2) the national workgroups/networks.

- The core workgroup: This is made up of a Secretariat (formed by WASCAL and CSIR) – which functions as the clearinghouse of the Hub – and 15 representatives from the national workgroups. This group is the governing body of the Hub and is responsible for all managerial and administrative duties, ensuring the effective functioning of the Hub.
- The national workgroups/networks: These are the 15 groups of organizations operating in one of the 15 member countries of ECOWAS. Each of these 15 national groups is responsible for championing GST-related activities in its respective country. Aspiring members are required to join one of these national groups depending on their preferred/main base of operation.

The document also provides concise descriptions of the other issues related to the operationalization of the Hub including the means of engagement among members at both national and regional levels. A detailed list of activities is planned for 2023 and 2024.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1. The Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement, often referred to as the Paris Accords or the Paris Climate Accords is the first legally binding international treaty aimed at combating the impacts of climate change. It was adopted in Paris under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2015⁴. The long-term goal of the Paris Agreement is to strengthen the global response to climate change by keeping a global average temperature rise well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit its increase to 1.5°C (Article 2, Paragraph 1, UNFCCC, 2015⁵). At the heart of the Agreement are the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (Article 4 Paragraph 2 - UNFCCC, 2015), which encompasses efforts made by each Party to reduce its national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The NDCs encompass voluntary efforts made by each country toward achieving carbon neutrality and climate resilience for all people by 2050.

1.2. The Global Stocktake

One of the vital components of the Paris Agreement is the Global Stocktake (GST) defined by Article 14, which 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 long-term goals” (UNFCCC, 2015). The GST is foreseen to assess the world’s collective progress towards climate mitigation, adaptation, and finance goals. Implemented under the authority of 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. Indeed, the results of the GST will be used by the countries to update and strengthen their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to climate change action and support, as well as to enhance international cooperation for climate action. As such, the GST will contribute to the assessment of the adequacy of the long-term global goal and the overall progress towards achieving it while also informing countries to enhance action and support. The GST also guides the steps needed to enhance the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including the mobilization of finance, the transfer of technology, and capacity-building.

The GST is planned to be conducted every five years starting in 2023 (Figure 1), through two main stages, including a technical stage and a political stage (Figure 2). During the technical stage, conducted by a group of technical experts appointed by the UNFCCC, there is a compilation and analysis of data and information collected from countries and other stakeholders, and of the latest scientific findings on climate change. As for the political stage, it involves a review of the technical outcomes by the Parties to the Paris Agreement, and the identification of areas where further action is needed. The political phase will be conducted at the COP, which is the annual meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

The GST is a Party-driven process, but also involves a range of non-Party stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive assessment of progress.

⁴ Rogelj, J., den Elzen, M., Höhne, N. et al. Paris Agreement climate proposals need a boost to keep warming well below 2°C. *Nature* 534, 631–639 (2016).

⁵ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (2015). Adoption of the Paris Agreement, 21st Conference of the Parties, Paris: United Nations. An Official Publication.

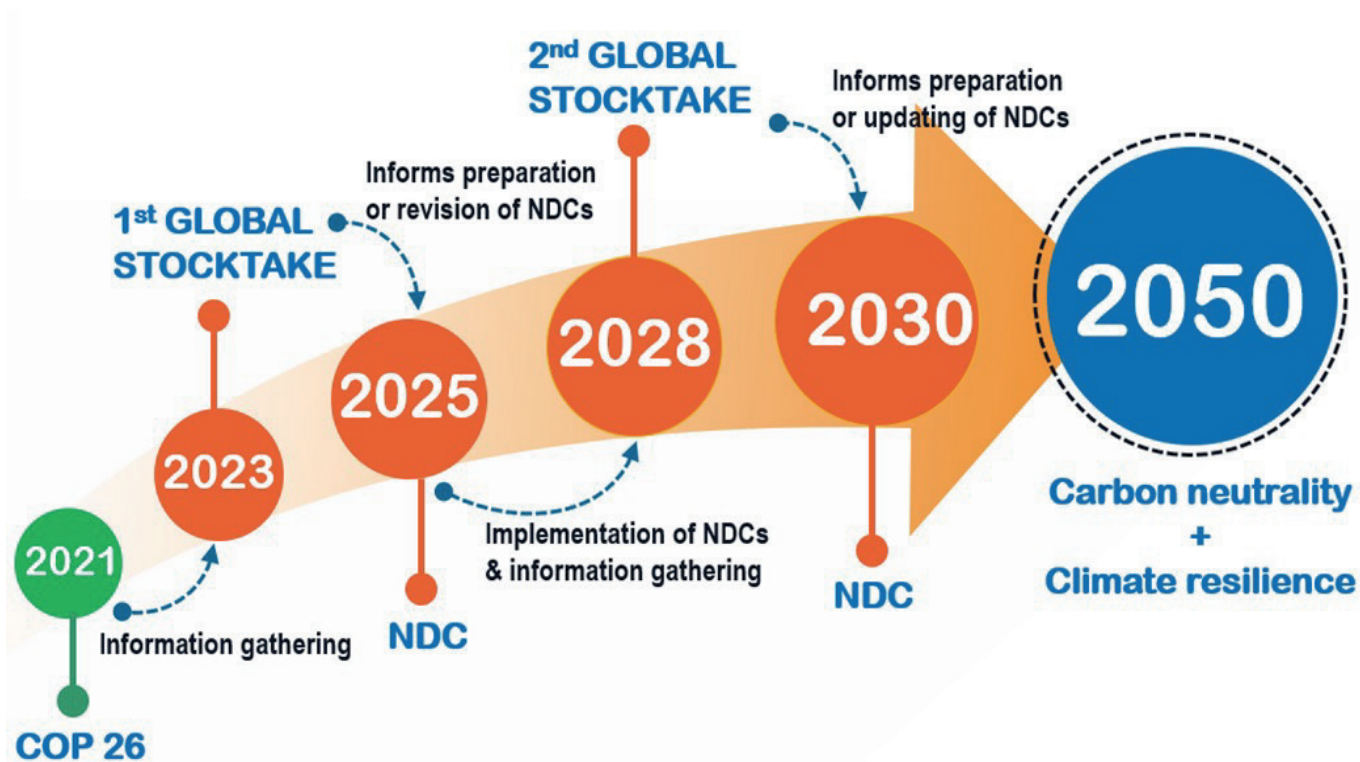


Figure 1. Periodic agenda of the GST process.

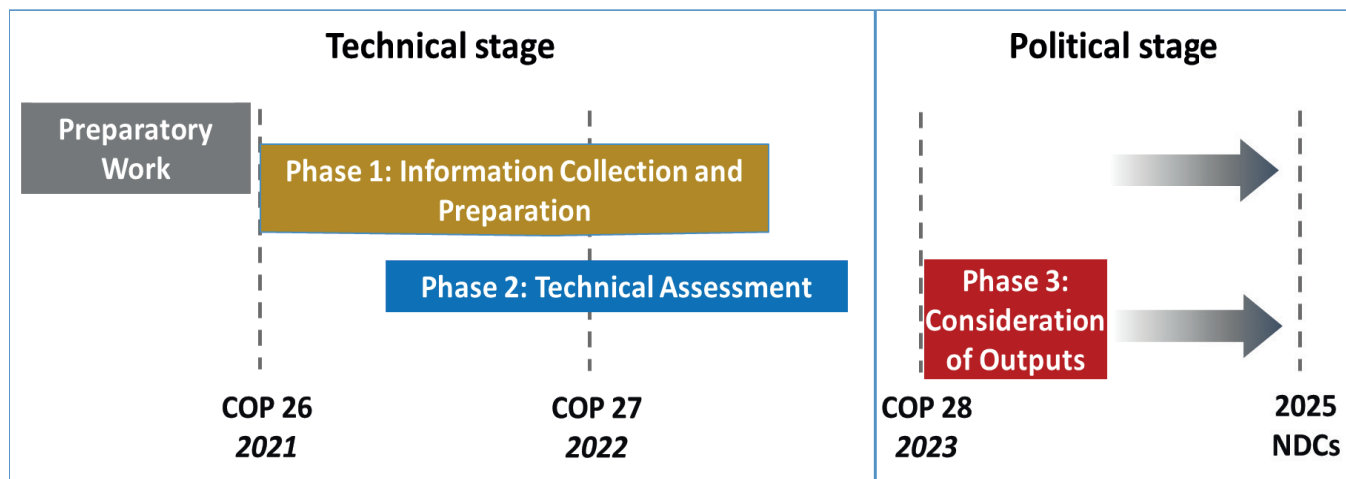


Figure 2. Different stages of the GST process (Adapted from ClimateWorks Foundation presentation on GST and the iGST, 2021).

1.3. The Independent Global Stocktake (iGST)

The Paris Agreement provides a window to the non-Party stakeholders to offer relevant inputs into the GST process through the Independent Global Stocktake (iGST) as part of global efforts to ensure adequate civil society contribution toward the achievement of the long-term goals of the Agreement. The Independent Global Stocktake (iGST) is a consortium of regional civil society 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. The iGST initiative consists of several complementary workstreams, each serving as a platform for discussion and carrying out specific tasks. These workstreams encompass regional civil society networks engaged with the official GST process and four thematic working groups that broadly align with the Paris Agreement's long-term goals in areas such as mitigation, adaptation, finance, and equity. Outside of these workstreams, the iGST is also engaged in other efforts, such as ongoing research into the relationship between the GST and national ambition. By organizing its work into these distinct yet interconnected streams, the iGST can engage a broad range of stakeholders and expertise, facilitating focused collaboration and a more effective approach to achieving its goals.

With its diversity of non-Party stakeholders, the iGST can provide complementary support for the achievement of the objectives of the Paris Agreement by working powerfully together to ensure a well informed and robust GST that empowers and motivates countries to take more impactful climate actions. The iGST is pursuing a variety of strategies to maximize the impact of the GST and accelerate climate ambition. These strategies include advocating for the inclusion of non-Party stakeholders in the official GST process, convening and coordinating different sectors of the independent community to identify areas of shared advocacy and analysis, conducting new research to fill data gaps, and developing new methodologies to assess progress in different thematic areas. In addition to these efforts, the iGST is also working to influence the conversation around climate action outside of the official GST process, providing support to countries that are seeking to increase their ambition post-GST. 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.

FORMATION OF THE iGST WEST AFRICA REGIONAL HUB (iGST WA HUB)

2.1. Importance and objectives of the iGST West Africa Regional Hub

Within the framework of the iGST initiative, the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of South Africa have been supported by ClimateWorks Foundation to lead a project with a focus on the formation and operationalization of the iGST West Africa Regional Hub (WA Hub, see Annex 1). The iGST WA Hub is a network of civil society organizations working on climate-related issues within the 15 ECOWAS countries of West Africa that advocate for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the strengthening of collective progress through the GST process. The quest of the iGST WA 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 a representative, relevant, and responsive GST. Thus, the iGST WA Hub will facilitate the effective participation of West African civil society (working on climate-related issues) in the GST process. This will be achieved by providing a platform to engage all interested stakeholders on issues related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, specifically raising ambitions, climate action, and the realisation of the outcome of the GST locally in line with national and regional development priorities. Stakeholders (based on UNFCCC Constituencies^{6,7},) include environment-, women-, and youth-based organizations, farming 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. The iGST WA Hub is currently one of three iGST regional hubs in the world, the other two being in Latin America and South-East Asia. The iGST WA Hub operates within the bigger iGST umbrella and collaborates with the other iGST partners.

Specifically, the WA Hub aims to:

- i. Bring together climate civil society stakeholders, including campaigners and researchers to support the GST and to push for more climate action in West Africa.
- ii. Provide a common platform for engagement among the stakeholders to develop coherent and regionally relevant inputs (through a West Africa lens) to the GST process.
- iii. Serve as a platform for mutual learning and knowledge sharing among the stakeholders recognizing the evolving nature of capacity needs for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the commitments made by West African countries as communicated through their respective NDCs.
- iv. Advocate additional financial and technical support in a transparent manner for the operationalization of the hub and scaling up of identified regional climate actions.

⁶ <https://unfccc.int/documents/36933>

⁷ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/parties-non-party-stakeholders/non-party-stakeholders/overview/admitted-ngos#Constituencies-in-the-UNFCCC>

2.2. Approach used for the formation of the iGST WA Hub

The formation process of the iGST WA Hub followed a bottom-up approach to ensure that the ownership of the hub belongs to the members. This process comprised six main steps (Table 1) including:

- i. Initial stakeholder mapping.
- ii. Stakeholder engagements (through meetings, interviews, and questionnaires).
- iii. Assessment of stakeholder activity domains, their involvement in climate change issues; and their perceptions of, and interest in the GST.
- iv. Co-designing of the iGST WA Hub operationalization document with stakeholders.
- v. Validation of the operationalization document inputs including the management structure, modalities of engagement, and the roadmap for the WA-Hub.
- vi. Official launch of the iGST WA Hub into full operation.

Table 1. Different steps and timeline of the formation process of the iGST WA Hub project

Period	Main steps	Short description
Feb 2022 - Feb 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial stakeholder mapping • Stakeholder engagements • Assessment of the stakeholders in West Africa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial stakeholder mapping of stakeholders • Engagement of stakeholders • Assessment of stakeholder perceptions and interests in GST and iGST
Mar-Apr 2023	Co-developing the operationalization document of the Hub with stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-country meetings with stakeholders to collect inputs on the structure, means of engagement, and the activity roadmap of the Hub.
May 23, 2023	Validation of the operationalization document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the different components of the operationalization document to stakeholders. • Soliciting comments on shared draft. • Approval and endorsement of the operationalization document.
May 24, 2023	Official launch of the Hub into full operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Hub launch event • Welcoming of members of the Hub

The formation process was concluded with an agreement on the activities for the first phase of the full operation of the iGST WA Hub.

The key deliverables of the formation phase of the WA Hub project are:

- i. a report that characterizes the civil society organizations in the region and their perceptions and interest in a regional iGST initiative.
- ii. the operationalization document.
- iii. a short documentary on the validation and official launch proceedings.

OPERATIONALIZATION RESOLUTIONS

The operationalization document constitutes both a framework and a roadmap for the efficient functioning of the Hub and adhere to the following components:

- i. Ensure the accuracy, transparency, accountability, and relevance of the GST process, focusing on the issues relevant to West Africa.
- ii. Build the capacity of the members of the hub on the GST processes.
- iii. Harness, collate, and synthesize inputs from civil society within the region.
- iv. Drawing from research conducted in different sectors in West Africa to yield a complete picture of progress on long-term goals of the Paris Agreement through the GST process.
- v. Leveraging available resources and processes to secure more funds for its long-term sustainability.

The operationalization components of the iGST WA Hub include:

- i. The structure of the hub.
- ii. The means of engagement among the members.
- iii. The action plan of activities of the hub.

3.1. Structure of the iGST WA Hub

3.1.1. Membership in the iGST WA Hub

The iGST WA Hub is a platform for regular engagement on climate change-related issues at subnational, national, regional, and global levels towards making inputs to the Global Stocktake process and for supporting the realization of the outcomes of the process locally.

Eligible members, in addition to the founding members of WASCAL and CSIR, must be civil society organizations operating in one of the 15 ECOWAS countries and working in the climate change domain areas covering environment, women, gender, and youth, agriculture, business and industry, indigenous people, research, labour, and trade.

The application for membership shall be done via a digital application form made available by the Secretariat. Membership will be evidenced in the organization's membership register. In addition, a charter of commitment will be prepared and signed by each member.

3.1.2. Management and leadership structure

To ensure maximum participation at both in-country and regional levels, the iGST WA Hub would have a two-level structure (Figure 3) made up of:

- i. National networks. These networks shall be constituted of interested civil society organizations in their respective countries. Aspiring members shall be organizations that would express interest in joining the Hub. They must be actors with an interest in and/or are working on climate change-related issues. Each national network shall be coordinated by a representative.
- ii. A core working group consisting of CSIR, WASCAL, and 15 representatives from each of the national networks. In the core group, there shall be a secretariat constituted by WASCAL, CSIR, and three representatives nominated from existing core group membership, one each from the Anglophone, Francophone, and Lusophone countries ideally. The Secretariat shall ensure that communication is distributed in at least English and French languages.

Within this structure, different collaborative activities will be conducted based on shared interests around the GST while recognizing barriers that emanate from differences in country-specific political, socio-economic, and cultural contexts.

A detailed organogram that fits into the structure shall be defined at appropriate levels if needed and when necessary.

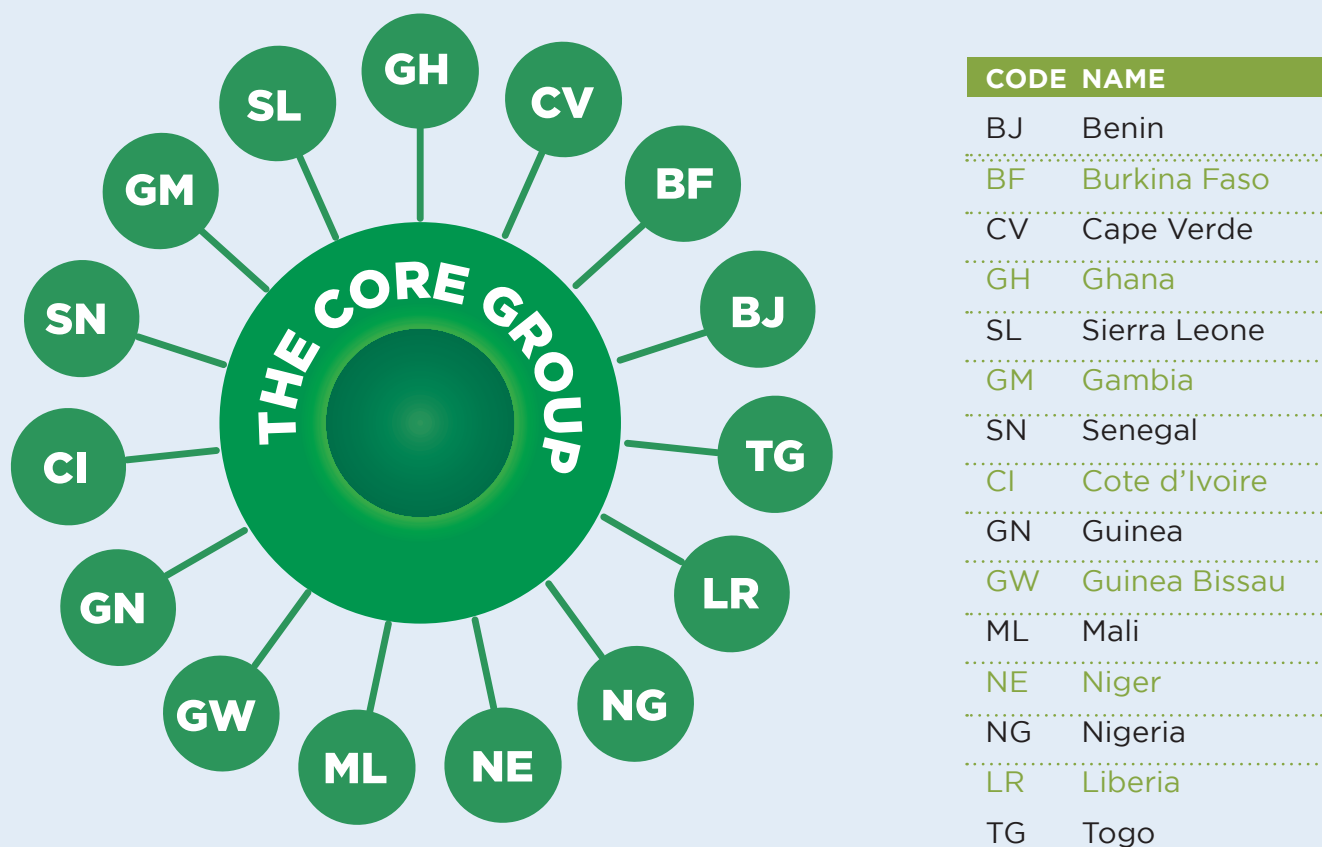


Figure 3 Structure of the WA Hub.

3.1.3. Criteria for the selection of the national network representatives

The national network representatives shall be national civil society organizations designated by the members of their respective countries, with the support of WASCAL and the CSIR, based on the following criteria:

- i. Proven experience and interest in climate change-related issues.
- ii. Familiarity with climate change policy and governance issues
- iii. Have the resource capacity to lead a national network by providing the enabling environment for its sustainability.
- iv. Have demonstrated access to an extensive relevant network at national, regional, or global levels.
- v. Have demonstrated an appreciable level of commitment and ability to efficiently represent other organizations.
- vi. Have demonstrated an ability to communicate broadly on social media handles about the activities of the Hub at national and regional levels.

3.1.4. Duties of the core group

Among others, the core group shall lead the iGST WA Hub through the following duties:

- i. Conduct regular meetings to define and discuss activities needed to achieve the goals of the iGST WA Hub in alignment with the overall goals of the iGST.
- ii. Communicate planned activities to the national networks through their national representatives, thus ensuring adequate participation of all national stakeholders.

- iii. Communicate, through the Secretariat, activities, and outcomes, including formal submissions of inputs of the Hub to the GST using appropriate platforms.
- iv. Establish teams responsible for studying GST events/activities and other related climate issues at both national, regional, and global levels to keep the Hub always informed to participate meaningfully in the global iGST initiative.
- v. Develop and present proposals for the continued operation of the regional hub to help meet its regional objectives as well as the global iGST goals.
- vi. Regularly liaise with the other iGST workstreams and the iGST coordination team at ClimateWorks Foundation through the Secretariat.
- vii. Facilitate the mobilization of the necessary financial resources for the realization of the regional hub's activities.
- viii. Be responsible for knowledge management of the Hub.
- ix. Ensure equal access and inclusion of all members.
- x. Oversee the drafting of a Charter to guide the professional conduct of members.

Representatives of the national networks in the core working group shall serve for a maximum 3-year term. Two people can serve the core working group on behalf of a representative organization.

3.1.5. Expectations on the national network/group members

Among other things, the expectations of the national network members include:

- i. An interest in climate change issues in connection with GST.
- ii. Active participation in national and regional engagements including meetings and workshops.
- iii. Involvement in activities as specified in the action plan (which may include research surveys, data collection and data sharing).
- iv. Willingness to voluntarily participate in ad-hoc thematic working groups, partnerships and collaborations in line with their domain areas.
- v. Willingness to participate in the nomination of national network representatives at the core working group.
- vi. Willingness to support inclusivity and expansion efforts of the network.
- vii. Adherence to the culture and practices of the Hub as endorsed by members through the Charter of commitment.

In their respective countries, the national networks, through their members, could explore how to liaise with governmental institutions and other existing hubs to achieve common objectives in the fight against climate change.

3.2. Means of engagement in the iGST WA Hub

3.2.1. Regular meeting of the core group and the national networks

To facilitate the engagement of the members and the interaction between them, there is a need for the core group and for the national networks to regularly meet to discuss, plan, and execute activities as part of the operationalization of the hub. The national networks will meet once per quarter at their respective national levels, while the core group will meet once per semester at regional level. At both levels, the format of the meetings shall be either virtual, physical, or hybrid. The core group and the respective national networks shall meet physically at least once per year depending on the availability of funds and the relevance of the meeting. For the core group, the country where the physical meetings will take place shall be selected on a rotating basis. Depending on the period and the need, the frequency of these meetings could be increased. The general meeting of the hub (attended by the core group and national networks) shall be held virtually once a year. In addition to the general meeting, the core

working group could call extraordinary meetings, as per an established need for engagement, depending on the subject matter.

For every meeting, either physical or virtual, minutes shall be kept maintaining a record of everything that has been done and discussed. The record of proceedings (or minutes) for the meetings of the national networks shall be shared with the core group two weeks after the respective meetings. The outcomes of the meetings shall also reflect the successes and challenges encountered during the operationalization of the process.

3.2.2. Capacity building, experience and knowledge sharing, and research

The iGST WA Hub shall provide capacity-building sessions to its members at regional level organised through the core working group. Institutional and human capacity-building activities at national level shall be organised through the respective national focal points with the support of the secretariate. At least one capacity-building initiative shall be organised on a quarterly basis to enhance skills and capacities to contribute efficiently to the GST process. The topics of the capacity-building sessions will be co-defined by the national network members in close collaboration with the core working group. Experience and knowledge-sharing sessions shall also be organized to allow the members to come together to discuss common challenges, share knowledge, and explore potential solutions. These experience and knowledge-sharing sessions be organized in such a way that they maximize opportunities for networking, collaboration, and co-learning. Organization of such sessions shall be undertaken at least once per year exclusively in a virtual format.

A youth-based think tank shall be formed and funded to conduct research work on reviewing the national and regional documents relevant to the GST. The literature review work shall contribute to the synthesis, monitoring, and evaluation of the commitments of the parties to the achievement of the PA. This will keep the members of the hub well-informed, updated and adequately engaged in the GST process while also taking opportunities to make relevant contributions. The criteria for the selection of the members of the think tank shall be well-defined to ensure that both national and regional contributions and perspectives are collated. The think tank shall be positioned to contribute to representing the iGST WA Hub on regional and global engagements.

To ensure a sustained interest in the GST process, the core group of the hub shall actively mobilize regional and international funding to support projects undertaken through the hub under its respective thematic areas in collection with the GST process.

Internal calls for project proposals to the hub shall be made and small grants shall be allocated to fund the selected GST-related projects. In the initial phases of the hub operationalization, available funds shall primarily target youth- and women-led and grassroots organizations. The hub shall initiate assessments and the development of synthesis reports to avail research outputs and information at a regional level in connection to the GST process. In this regard, the hub shall complement the efforts of the parties on information collection, synthesis, and sharing thereby enabling evidence-based actions by climate change role players over the region.

One of the core activities of the iGST WA hub shall be the translation of the outputs of the GST process into outcomes at a regional level. This shall be pursued through engagements and information dissemination targeting webinars, workshops, or panel discussions to encourage dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

3.2.3. Partnerships, collaboration, and advocacy

Engagement through partnerships and collaborations is crucial for the hub to maximize its impact. The hub through its temporary internal thematic research networks shall explore opportunities for collaboration with funders, private sector entities, academic institutions, and governments to leverage resources, expertise, and networks.

The hub shall also engage in advocacy efforts to influence policies and decision-making processes regarding the GST at global, regional, and national levels. The natural starting point

shall be to participate in UNFCCC events like Technical Dialogues, African Climate Weeks, and COPs.

For more visibility and efficiency, the hub shall collaborate with existing networks and initiatives dealing with GST-related issues. However, it shall be important to ensure that the mandate of the hub remains independent from that of its collaborative networks and initiatives. Existing networks and initiatives will be mapped within each of the respective ECOWAS countries with the support of the core working group.

3.2.4. Communication and online platforms

A page for this project shall be created on the WASCAL website and updated regularly by the Secretariat. Furthermore, social media handles (LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook) shall be created for the dissemination of activities and information sharing. To facilitate communication between the members, mailing lists shall be created for the iGST WA Hub in general, for the core group, and for each of the 15 national networks (managed by the representatives). As such, official information shall be passed at the regional level through national networks and virtual means (i.e., website and social media handles). They shall also serve for capacity building, experience sharing/networking, and other exchanges (e.g., peer-to-peer learning, mentorship, training of trainers, etc.). Information such as funding, scholarships, and collaboration opportunities shall also be regularly shared via these platforms.

The iGST WA Hub shall operate mainly in French and English languages for the optimal engagement of all stakeholders. Members from Lusophone countries may be comfortable either in French or English. Sometimes, national languages should also be considered for the dissemination of information at the local level within the countries.

3.2.5. Resource mobilization and additional support opportunities

There is a need to ensure that funds and infrastructures are available for optimal operationalization and sustainability of the iGST WA Hub, and to support innovative projects and initiatives in the region. The core working group shall approach regional and international donor organizations to mobilize the necessary resources for the implementation of the hub's activities. Moreover, the members of the iGST WA Hub can also support the resource mobilization efforts of the hub. By its dynamism and proactivity, the hub may obtain funds from governmental organizations such as the Ministries, but also from other companies that can indirectly help by providing products and materials and by supporting its activities.

Over time, the Hub should not rely only on donor funds but look for other alternatives. Members should be encouraged to form consortia and submit proposals in pursuance of thematic activities under the Hub. A sub-committee of experts may be established to help with fundraising.

3.3. Action plan for the operationalization of the Hub

Based on the structure and the means of engagement of the Hub, and to efficiently achieve its objectives, an action plan has been clearly defined for implementation (Table 2). The action plan covering the period from May 2023 to December 2024 considers the following sections:

- i. Official launch, membership, and commitment.
- ii. Communication tools and implementation.
- iii. Capacity building, experience and knowledge sharing, and research.
- iv. Meetings of the core group and the national networks.
- v. Partnerships, collaboration, advocacy, and fundraising.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mechanisms shall be set up to assess the progress and impact of the Hub and make necessary adjustments to the action plan based on lessons learned.

Table 2. Action plan for the operationalization of the iGST-WA Regional Hub

Period	Activities	Lead	Description/Comment	Date/Deadline
Official Launch, membership, and commitment				
May	Validation of the operationalization document	WASCAL, CSIR and members	Regional workshop for the validation of the operationalization document	23 rd May
	Official Launch of the Hub	WASCAL and CSIR	Regional workshop for the official launch the hub into full operation	24 th May
	Writing retreat	WASCAL and CSIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalization of the operationalization document Discussion on the practical and efficient implementation of some key activities planned in the operationalization document. Drafting of the sample Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be used within the hub to mark the formal engagement of the members. Finalization of the report on the regional assessment of climate civil society in West Africa. 	25 th and 26 th May
June	Submission of project deliverables in proper layout to ClimateWorks Foundation	WASCAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on the regional assessment of climate civil society in West Africa, Operationalization document of the Hub Documentary of validation and official launch workshops 	
	Establishment of the list of the members at regional and national levels and finalization of the list of representatives	Core working group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a membership registration form Confirmation of the membership of the current members Welcoming of new members from all the 15 ECOWAS countries Establishment of the list of the members of the core group and of each national network Finalization of the list of representatives within the national networks 	31 st July
Communication tools and implementation				
June	Setting up of social media handles	Secretariat	Creation/activation of accounts of the hub on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook	31 st July
July	Creation of the mailing list at regional and national levels	Secretariat	Creation of mailing lists for the regional hub in general, for the core group, and for each of the 15 national networks as well	31 st July
July to November	Creation and handling of a website for the hub.	Secretariat	Creation of a website for visibility, activities dissemination and information sharing	30 th November

Period	Activities	Lead	Description/Comment	Date/Deadline
September to December	Maintenance of the website and social media handles, including publications and posts	Secretariat	Regular publications and posts on the website and the social media handles	31 st December
	Capacity building, experience and knowledge sharing, and research			
October - December	Establishment of youth-based think-tank within Hub	Core working group	<p>Terms of Reference shall be developed. The think tank shall be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studying the parties in the region's commitment in the NDCs. Providing research outcomes to the core group Representing the Hub on key global discussion platforms. 	31 st December
	Meeting of the core group and the national networks			
July	First virtual meeting of the core working group.	Secretariat	Meeting of the representatives.	31 st July
August	First virtual meeting of the national networks.	Representatives	National networks' virtual meetings.	31 st August
September	Physical meetings of the core working group at the Africa Climate Week/Summit 2023.	Representatives	Meeting of the representatives.	15 th September
	Partnerships, collaboration, advocacy, and fundraising			
June	Participation in UNFCCC 3rd technical dialogue and Climate Conference.	Secretariat	Contribution to the Side Event on Regional Hubs and make a presentation of the Hub.	5 th to 16 th June
September	Participation in Africa Climate Week (ACW) 2023.	Core working group	Organization of Side Event on Hub at ACW.	4 th to 8 th September
October	Participation in NDC meeting of Burkina Faso	Secretariat	Meeting of technical and financial partners of the implementation of Burkina Faso NDCs and its partnership plan	15 th October
October	Participation in Pre-COP28 Workshop in Cote d'Ivoire	Secretariat	Participation and contribution to the pre-COP28 regional workshop organized by ECOWAS	15 th October
October	Participation in Pre-COP28 GST Workshop in Abu Dhabi	Secretariat	Participation and contribution to the pre-COP28 GST workshop organized by the UNFCCC	31 st October
November - December	Participation in COP28.	Core working group	Contributing to GST-related events.	29 th November to 12 th December

Period	Activities	Lead	Description/Comment	Date/Deadline
Year 2024				
Communication tools and implementation				
January to December	Maintenance of the website and social media handles, including publications and posts.	Secretariat	Regular publications and posts on the website and the social media handles.	31 st December
April	Publication of newsletter 1.	Secretariat	Shall cover activities in the first trimester of 2024.	30 st April
August	Publication of newsletter 2.	Secretariat	Shall cover activities in the second trimester of 2024.	31 st August
December	Publication of newsletter 3.	Secretariat	Shall cover activities in the third trimester of 2024.	15 th December
Capacity building, experience and knowledge sharing, and research				
January	Special virtual training of the think-tank's members	Secretariat	The think-tank shall be trained on the methodology to be used for their assignment.	15 th January
January to March	Assignment of the youth-based think-tank	Core working group	The think-tank shall be appointed for six months and expected to produce preliminary results by 15th July to be presented at Africa Climate Week 2024.	31 st July
January - February	Preparation and launch of an internal call for small grants to fund interesting GST-related projects	Secretariat	Development of the Terms of Reference The priority of these grants (6 to 12 months) shall be given to youth- and women-led and grassroots organizations	28 th February
March	Submission of applications for the small grant proposals.	Secretariat	Small grants submission deadline.	31 st March
April	Completion of small project selection process	Core working group	Establishment of the list of the ten (10) small projects to be funded.	30 th April
June	The official launch of small grant projects.	Secretariat	Launch of the ten (10) small projects funded.	30 th June
August	Dissemination of the final outcomes from the think-tank assignment.	Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing and publication of a technical report Writing and publication of a policy brief to provide insights for policymakers and practitioners 	30 th August
September	Follow-up on the ongoing small grant projects.	Secretariat	Follow-up of each of the ten (10) ongoing small projects.	30 th September
March	Virtual capacity building #1.	Secretariat	To be organised with the support from UNFCCC, CWF, & other iGST workstreams.	31 st March
June	Virtual capacity building #2.	Secretariat	To be organised with the support from UNFCCC, CWF, & other iGST workstreams.	30 th June

Period	Activities	Lead	Description/Comment	Date/Deadline
September	Virtual capacity building #3.	Secretariat	To be organised with the support from UNFCCC, CWF, & other iGST workstreams.	30 th September
December	Closing of all the small project funded	Secretariat	All the ten (10) small projects funded will be closed.	31 st December
Meeting of the core group and the national networks				
January	General virtual annual meet-ing.	Core working group	General virtual meetings of the core group and national networks (normally to be held in 2023).	31 st January
March	First virtual meeting of the national networks.	Representatives	National networks' virtual meeting	31 st March
June	Second virtual meeting of the national networks.	Representatives	National networks' virtual meeting	30 th June
June	First virtual meeting of the core group	Secretariat	Core group's virtual meeting	30 th June
September	Third virtual meeting of the national networks	Representatives	National networks' virtual meeting	30 th September
December	General virtual annual meeting	Core working group	General virtual meetings of the core group and national networks	31 st December
Partnerships, collaboration, advocacy, and fundraising				
February	Workshop on the outcomes of the regional hub in 2023 UN-FCCC events	Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hub's members who have participated in the UNFCCC events (Africa Climate Week, technical dialogue 3 and COP28) will report to the other members. This will also be an opportunity for experiences and knowledge sharing 	19 th February
February - June	Identification of partners and funders for collaboration, in-cluding key decision-makers.	All members	This will help to explore the opportunities for collaboration with funders, private sector entities, academic institutions, and governments to leverage resources, expertise, and networks.	Transversal activity
February - April	Establishment of consortia for writing proposals	Core working group	Resource mobilization for the sustainability of the Hub.	Transversal activity
August-September	Participation in Africa Climate Week (ACW) 2024	Core working group	Side Event on the Hub's activities	Tbd
November-December	Participation in COP29	Core working group	Side Event with other regional Hub's activities	Tbd
January to De-cember	Establishment of consortia for writing proposals.	Core working group	Resource mobilization for the sustainability of the Hub.	Transversal activity
January to De-cember	Identification of partners and funders for collaboration, and key decision makers.	All members	This will help to explore the opportunities for collaboration with funders, private sector entities, academic institutions, and governments to leverage resources, expertise, and networks.	Transversal activity

4

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

During its operationalization, the iGST WA Hub would face both challenges to address and opportunities to leverage. This will require strategic planning, effective governance, collaboration, and continuous adaptation. Thus, the iGST WA Hub can contribute significantly to advancing climate action, fostering sustainability, and building a resilient future in line with the Paris Agreement's goals.

4.1. Challenges

Limited resources: Climate-related initiatives generally require substantial resources, including funding, infrastructure, and human capital. The iGST WA Hub may face challenges in securing adequate and sufficient resources especially financial ones to support its activities and projects.

Complex and evolving issues: As climate change is a complex and multifaceted issue, with new challenges and developments emerging regularly, there is a requirement for continuous learning and adaptation for the iGST WA Hub to keep up with the evolving science, policies, and technologies.

Policy and political landscape: Climate policies and political contexts vary across regions, posing challenges for the iGST WA Hub's efforts to align diverse stakeholders and advocate for effective climate action.

Collaboration and coordination: Building effective collaborations among diverse civil society organizations, stakeholders, and government can be challenging due to differing priorities, approaches, and capacities. Balancing competing interests and ensuring meaningful participation may require significant effort from the iGST WA Hub.

4.2. Opportunities

Networking and knowledge sharing: The iGST WA Hub provides a platform for civil society organizations, experts, and stakeholders to connect, share knowledge, and collaborate on climate-related issues. This will facilitate the exchange of best practices, innovative ideas, and lessons learned.

Capacity building: The iGST WA Hub can offer capacity-building opportunities to empower civil society organizations, enabling them to enhance their skills, knowledge, and effectiveness in climate issues and actions.

Advocacy and policy influence: By consolidating the voices and expertise of diverse civil society organizations, the iGST WA Hub can advocate for robust climate policies, influence decision-makers, and promote sustainable practices at regional, national, and international levels.

Multi-stakeholder engagement: The iGST WA Hub can serve as a neutral space for dialogue and collaboration among civil society, governments, businesses, and scientists. This will facilitate partnerships and collective action, leveraging the strengths and resources of different stakeholders towards climate goals.

Innovation and solutions: The iGST WA Hub can foster innovation by supporting research, piloting projects, and scaling up successful climate solutions. It can provide a platform for testing and showcasing innovative approaches, technologies, and business models for climate resilience and mitigation.

Public Awareness and Education: The iGST WA Hub can play a vital role in raising public awareness, promoting climate literacy, and inspiring individual and community action. It can facilitate educational campaigns, outreach programs, and media partnerships to effectively communicate climate messages.

LIST OF THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE CO-DESIGNING OF THE OPERATIONALIZATION DOCUMENT.

N°	Country	Name of organization
1	Benin	Secrétaire/YILAA Bénin
2	Benin	Enseignant/Université de Parakou
3	Benin	Stagiaire/AMAF-BENIN
4	Benin	Chargé de programme/ONG ALDIPE
5	Benin	DRCE/ABE/MCVDD
6	Benin	DE/ONG JVE Bénin
7	Benin	Parlement des Jeunes du Bénin
8	Benin	Assistante/ONG JVE Bénin
9	Benin	Chargée de Programme Agricole/YILAA
10	Benin	Chercheur PAPA/INRAB
11	Benin	Directeur de recherche/ACED
12	Burkina Faso	CONAJEC
13	Burkina Faso	INSS/CNRST
14	Burkina Faso	Design and Advocacy
15	Burkina Faso	ADIJK
16	Burkina Faso	Akvo
17	Burkina Faso	Afrique Verte Burkina
18	Burkina Faso	Journalistes et communicateurs pour les Énergies et le développement Durables (Association JED)
19	Burkina Faso	RJPE
20	Burkina Faso	AFEP
21	Burkina Faso	WEP Burkina
22	Burkina Faso	JVE
23	Burkina Faso	OXFAM
24	Burkina Faso	AFE
25	Burkina Faso	SP/CNDD
26	Burkina Faso	APESI
27	Burkina Faso	CESAO
28	Burkina Faso	MARAH
29	Burkina Faso	CEAS Burkina
30	Ghana	Amal Foundation
31	Ghana	Global Media Foundation
32	Ghana	Ark Development Organization
33	Ghana	Northern Patriots in Research and Advocacy (NORPRA)
34	Ghana	Adolescents, Youth and Health International
35	Ghana	Centre for Communities Education and Youth Development

N°	Country	Name of organization
36	Ghana	Resource Link Foundation
37	Ghana	Centre for Environmental and Energy Policy (CEEP).
38	Ghana	Defence Against AIDS Poverty and Underdevelopment (DAAPU)
39	Ghana	Ho Technical University / University of Energy and Natural Resources
40	Ghana	Youth Climate Council Ghana
41	Ghana	Industrial and Commercial Workers Union Ghana
42	Ghana	Foundation for Environmental Watch (FEW)
43	Ghana	Foundation for Future Christian Workers International
44	Ghana	Center for Innovative Social Development (CISD)
45	Ghana	Ghana Youth Environmental Movement (GYEM)
46	Ghana	Integrated Youth Needs and Welfare - INTYON
47	Ghana	Seven Hearts Ghana
48	Ghana	AbibiNsroma Foundation
49	Ghana	Deutsche Sparkassenstiftung für International Kooperation (DSIK)
50	Ghana	Partners in Sustainable Development
51	Ghana	Muslim Family Counselling Services
52	Ghana	Nkoranza North District Assembly
53	Ghana	OLIF WORLDWIDE
54	Ghana	Ghana Youth Environmental Movement
55	Ghana	Alrotec solutions
56	Ghana	University of Energy and Natural Resources
57	Ghana	University of Cape Coast
58	Ghana	PARTNERS IN RURAL EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (PARED)
59	Ghana	Human Rights Reporters Ghana-NGO (HRRG)
60	Ghana	Community and Family Aid Organization
61	Ghana	Conservation Alliance Int.
62	Guinea	Réseau National de la Société Civile pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable (ONG-RENASCEDD)
63	Guinea	ADIES (association pour le développement intégré de l'environnement et de la santé)
64	Mali	ADDEH
65	Mali	ASEDES
66	Mali	ONG ASIC
67	Mali	Jeunesse Action N'Toroba

N°	Country	Name of organization
68	Mali	REFEDE
69	Mali	ICRISAT
70	Mali	ONG VADIM
71	Mali	AMADE PELCODE
72	Mali	Association ESD
73	Mali	Association GreenCom
74	Mali	ONG AMEPF
75	Niger	Eyes on the Environment Initiative, wing pf Niger
76	Nigeria	ICCDI
77	Nigeria	HEDA Resource Centre
78	Nigeria	Blessed Health Spring Initiative
79	Nigeria	Community Development Initiatives
80	Nigeria	MEDIC
81	Nigeria	Future savers Sustainable Development Initiative
82	Nigeria	International Climate Change Development Initiative
83	Nigeria	Connected Advocacy
84	Nigeria	Global Network of CSOs for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
85	Nigeria	Homef/Oilwatch
86	Nigeria	Nigerian Women Agro Allied Farmers Association
87	Nigeria	Neighbourhood Environment Watch Foundation
88	Nigeria	African Cleanup Initiative
89	Nigeria	Golden Garbage
90	Nigeria	Prime initiative for Green Development (PIGD)
91	Nigeria	Centre for 21dt Century Issues
92	Nigeria	Youth Sustainable Development Network
93	Senegal	UCAD
94	Senegal	Enda
95	Senegal	COSAPERRE
96	Senegal	URAPD/SG
97	Senegal	Enda Energies
98	Senegal	AJE
99	Senegal	ISRA
100	Senegal	CEAS
101	Senegal	ECOPN
102	Senegal	CNRC/C. D
103	Sierra Leone	Reptile and Amphibian Program - Sierra Leone
104	Togo	Association des Volontaires pour l'Environnement Sain



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