



PRESS CONFERENCE

Prof. Haak meets the Press in Windhoek (Namibia)

I. Profile

The Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) is a joint initiative of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Germany in response to the challenges of global change.

The current processes of global change, including demographic change, climate change and the globalization of economic systems, are an enormous challenge for societies worldwide. Climate change is affecting the lives of millions of people in all parts of the world. Current projections on future developments indicate that there is an urgent need to develop concepts on how to adapt to these challenges in due course. Science and research offer proactive approaches to deal with the current and the expected changes. In this regard, the role of science is to be understood as a service to those societies that are most severely affected by climate change and to provide decision-makers with evidence-based results and advice. The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research is very supportive to enhance this fight together with its partners.

The establishment of SASSCAL is the contribution of the Federal Republic of Germany to the fight against Climate change and the destruction of the Biodiversity.

SASSCAL is founded to be a Leading Regional Science Centre in integrated climate change and adaptive land management, Climate services and Capacity Building by generating and implementing scientific knowledges. The partners in SASSCAL work together in regional trans-/interdisciplinary Research projects on priority thematics.

The Management structure composed by The Regional Secretariat of SASSCAL in Windhoek and a node in each of the partner countries is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. SASSCAL is supposed to become by end of 2019 an International Organization.

II. Research Portfolio

The Research portfolio of SASSCAL is addressing various geographic and temporal scales and inter- and transdisciplinary challenges, research needs were recognized in five SASSCAL Research Priority Areas (RPAs):

- food security
- water security
- declining and threatened biodiversity



- deforestation and degradation of forests
- climate services in the SASSCAL countries

SASSCAL-supported research will improve the understanding of climate and land management change impacts on the natural and socio-economic environment within the southern African region. This is the reason why the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research has supported SASSCAL with a new funding of 10 million Euros to develop a new Research Call to be implemented from 2019 to 2022. In the first phase of 2010 to 2018 BMBF has invested in total more than 26Millions Euros in SASSCAL Research Program.

III. Capacity Development

SASSCAL facilitates the development of human capacities by investing in the career of young researchers and by providing infrastructures to national and regional institutions. Example of more than 50 Automatic Weather Stations donated to all the member countries...

For the future, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research will support SASSCAL with and funding for up to 3 Million Euros for the establishment of thematic Post Graduate Programs, starting with the Program on Integrated Water Resource Management at the Namibian University of Science and technology (NUST). In 3 Years the region will increase the number of Experts to help finding specific solutions for Water issues in the region.

IV. Research Infrastructures

Many countries of southern Africa face inadequate infrastructure to archive and disseminate timely and reliable data and information to aid the development of efficient management strategies under conditions of long-term environmental change and climate change. The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research has made funds available to create the Open Access Data Centre (OADC) to close the gap of data lack and to support to support climate change adaptation by making data, information and knowledge openly available. The objectives of the OADC are:

- harvesting data, information and services from the SASSCAL research portfolio and from collaborating initiatives and partners,
- putting in place data storage systems to ensure that products are safe-guarded,
- putting in place an openly-accessible online platform, referred to as the SASSCAL Data and Information Portal, and
- Putting in place platforms to further ensure the creation of knowledge products and services based on the user requirements of the stakeholder community.



V. Perspectives

German Federal Ministry is firmly committed to support the efforts of the African partners in the fight against the impacts of Climate Change as part of the German responsibilities generated from the agreement of Paris and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The German Federal Ministry will release 10 million Euros for the new call 2.0 and make available also 3millions for the new Capacity Building programs with the clear objectives to have by 2025 more than 200 Experts on climate Change related topics.

Contacts:

BMBF:

Prof. Dr. René Haak

Head of Division Global Change, Climate and Biodiversity

Ren.ehaak@bmbf.bund.de

SASSCAL:

Dr. Jane Olwoch,

Executive Director

Jane.olwoch@sascal.org