

**IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE SIXTH  
PARLIAMENT OF  
THE FOURTH REPUBLIC OF GHANA**



**REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY**

**ON THE**

**HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF GHANA AND THE WEST  
AFRICA SCIENCE CENTRE ON CLIMATE  
CHANGE AND ADAPTED LAND USE**

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**IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF THE  
FOURTH REPUBLIC**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY ON THE HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA AND WEST AFRICA SCIENCE  
CENTRE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTED LAND USE**

**1.0. INTRODUCTION**

The Host Country Agreement between the Government of Ghana and West Africa Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use was laid in Parliament on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 by the Hon. Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Mr. Mahama Ayariga. In accordance with article 75 of the Constitution and Order 185 of the Standing Orders of Parliament, the Agreement was referred to the Committee on Environment, Science and Technology for consideration and report to the House.

**2.0. DELIBERATIONS**

The Committee met on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 to consider the Bill. The Hon. Minister for Environment, Science, Technology and Innovations, Mr. Mahama Ayariga and the technical persons from the Ministry were in attendance to assist the Committee in the deliberations of the Agreement. The Committee is grateful to them for their attendance.

The Committee was guided by the following documents:

- i. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana
- ii. The Standing Orders of Parliament
- iii. Constitution of the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)
- iv. The Host Country Agreement between the Government of Ghana and West Africa Science Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use

### 3.0. BACKGROUND

West African Science Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) is a large-scale research-focused Climate Service Centre established by ECOWAS member countries with the support of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), and mandated to help tackle the challenges of climate change in West Africa by informing the public about the records and trends in climate.

The overall objective of WASCAL is to identify resilient and adaptive land use systems and develop measures to conserve or restore functional ecosystems that support sustainable human development, while preserving the natural resource base for future generations.

This objective is achieved through:

- i. Strengthening the research, analytical infrastructure and capacity related to climate change in West Africa and pooling or sharing the expertise of the ten West African countries and Germany.
- ii. Conducting regional research and capacity-developing programmes to improve the use of land resources through better technologies, policies, institutions and management.
- iii. Providing advisory services on adaptation measures to stakeholders from all sectors of the society.

In doing this, WASCAL is organised around three principal components:

- **Climate Service:** to collect, integrate and analyse data and generate policy advice from this data
- **Research:** to seek ways and means to generate resilience in cultural landscapes
- **Capacity Building:** to strengthen human capacity through partnerships with universities in the region



#### **4.0. OBJECTIVE OF THE HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT**

The Agreement (WASCAL) seeks to regularize mutually beneficial relationship with the Government of the Republic of Ghana through a legal arrangement in the form of a Host Country Agreement to enable Ghana become the headquarters of WASCAL. The agreement also aims at conferring a legal status and personality as well as privileges and immunities on the beneficial relationship in accordance with the laws of Ghana, to facilitate the efficient and effective discharge of WASCAL operations. However, it is important to note that the immunities and privileges that would be accorded are primarily for functional purposes.

##### **4.1. The Contents of the Host Agreement:**

The Agreement provides for the following reliefs:

- Definitions
- Privileges, Immunities and Control of WASCAL and its Assets
- Communication and Transport
- Laws of Ghana
- Access
- Privileges and Immunities of officials and other Employees of WASCAL
- Waiver of Immunity
- Co-operation between the WASCAL and the Government
- Public Services and Utilities
- Interpretation and Application
- Settlement of dispute
- Amendment
- Final Provision

#### **5.0. OBSERVATIONS**

The Committee made the following observations:

- i. that Cabinet at its 36<sup>th</sup> meeting held in August, 2012 gave approval to a memorandum submitted by the sector Minister requesting Ghana to join WASCAL as a member country.

- ii. that the draft Agreement was given Executive approval by H.E. The President on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 on the advise of the Minister for Justice and Attorney General after it had been revised by the Legal and Consular Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration to ensure it is in conformity with the relevant legislations and similar Agreements that Ghana has entered into with comparable international organizations, such as the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), International Food Policy and Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).
- iii. that Ghana is designated as the seat of the Regional Institution. This places Ghana in leadership position in a field in which many regional policies will have to be formulated to provide information on records and trends in climate change to inform the member countries policies and programmes on sustainable development. This gives Ghana the advantage to be selected as the gateway to the Green Fund being set up by the Organisation of Economic Communities of Developed Countries (OECD).
- iv. that WASCAL will serve as scientific institution to research into and address questions from private and public sectors be they related to infrastructure in early warning or investment behaviour or social safety nets. It will therefore become a Climate Service Centre with highly competent Partners from the ten-member countries in West Africa that jointly address the complex questions raised by climate change.
- v. that WASCAL will promote Ghana as tourist destination. Many of the official functions of WASCAL will take place at the headquarters. So far WASCAL has organised over 15 workshops in Accra and Cape Coast with a total of over 400 participants or visitors to the country.

- vi. that WASCAL will boost the local economy through investments in infrastructure and capital equipment and provide employment in the headquarters and the two Graduate schools being established in KNUST and University of Cape Coast.
- vii. that financial benefits from WASCAL include planned investments in the Centre to the tune of Sixty Million Euros (€60 Million) from 2013 to 2016. The training of foreign students in the Graduate Schools in the country also brings in foreign exchange. The first two batches of students brought two Million Euros (€2 Million) to the country in the form of training expenses.
- viii. that WASCAL will help Ghana train a critical mass of scientists for Ghana. Already six PhDs and eight MSc students are currently being trained in KNUST College of Engineering. Over the next ten years about sixty PhDs and sixty MSc students are expected to be trained in the college for Ghana alone.
- ix. that Ghana's liability in terms of the WASCAL Headquarters Agreement is an annual contribution of Eighty Thousand Euros (€80,000), which will be paid in-kind in the form of staff secondments to headquarters and the colleges, rent and utility payments.
- x. That a stronger Ghana-WASCAL collaboration will bring significant benefits to farmers and the national economy, through building individual an institutional capacity in science and technology, improved farm productivity and profitability, household income and nutrition, as well as consumer welfare.

## **6.0. RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION**

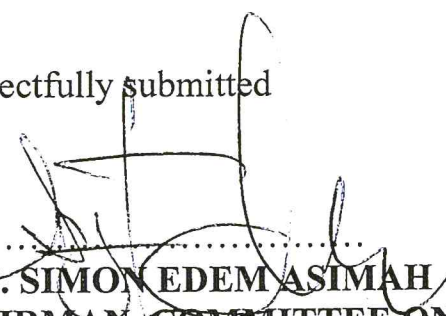
- 6.1. The Committee has thoroughly examined the provisions of the Host Country Agreement between the Republic of Ghana and West African Science Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) in the light of its object and purpose.



The Committee is of the view that the Agreement is consistent with the Constitution and other relevant statutes of Ghana and will also be of immense benefit to the nation.

- 6.2. The Committee accordingly recommends to the House for adoption the Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Ghana and West African Science Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL).

Respectfully submitted



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**HON. SIMON EDEM ASIMAH**  
**CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON**  
**ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE**  
**AND TECHNOLOGY**



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**JOANA A. S. ADJEI (MRS)**  
**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

**23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE, 2016**