

WORKING GROUP 5

Ecosystem Change and Services

Task 1. Identify Nigeria priority issues related to ecosystem change and services

Issues associated with ecosystem change – degradation, biodiversity loss, spatial spread, quality of ecosystem. Climate change enhances these changes – i.e degradation of soil and water.

a. Priority issues

- i. Preventing further degradation of natural ecosystem
- ii. Restoring degraded ecosystems and their services as well as biodiversity.

Research priorities

i. Short term

- Developing database for different ecosystems and services
- Ensuring implementation of relevant policies and programs for ecosystem management.
- Enhancing capacity to carry out real time management of ecological systems
- Developing alternative resources for ecosystem services e.g. alternative for wood, wildlife resource (mushrooms that taste like meat)
- Understand the changing linkages between ecosystem and sociocultural parameters.
- Promoting ecosystem services for entrepreneurship and foreign exchange earnings.
- Sustaining ecosystems in the face of climate change

ii. Long term

- Sustaining ecosystems in the face of climate change
- Restoring biodiversity
- Sustaining access to ecosystem services
- Enhancing capacity to carry out real time management of ecological systems
- Developing alternative resources for ecosystem services e.g. alternative for wood, wildlife resource (mushrooms that taste like meat)
- Understand the changing linkages between ecosystem and sociocultural parameters.
- Promoting ecosystem services for entrepreneurship and foreign exchange earnings.

Task 2. Analyse the coverage of the country's research needs by the Research Agenda

We believe the country's needs are adequately covered by the research agenda except Financing of this agenda.

Task 3. Analyse the national research capacities in relation to climate change

Although substantial research resources exist for research agenda e.g. NASRDA, NIMET, Fed Min. of Env., some academic institutions. Generally speaking, the country does not have adequate capacity to handle complex climate change researches. But these resources can be tapped for WASCAL programme.

Task 4. Determine the potential contribution of the country to the implementation of WASCAL's research agenda.

Government political will to fund some aspects of WASCAL research agenda, equip existing research institutions, enhancement of capacities of staff