



FROM CLIMATE CRISIS TO CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Pathways for West Africa and the
Sahel at local and regional levels

**West Africa Climate
Resilience Summit**



 **March 23–24, 2026**

 **Le Ndiambour Hôtel et Résidence,
Dakar–Senegal**

1. Objectives of the Cooperation

- Strengthening climate resilience through partnerships, networking, science and policy, and consultations with society for positive actions.
- Mobilizing and strengthening the voices and actions of decentralized governments (mayors and governors) at local (rural and urban), sub-national, national, and regional levels, with special emphasis on West African farming communities and youth.

2. Background, Rationale, and Concept

Mitigation needs to be complemented by adaptation and societal transformation to cope with the additional heating of the planet in the coming decades and to evolve into a sustainable way of living. Resilience consists of the following actions:

- Anticipate threats and risks
- Prepare for threats and risks
- Respond to threats and risks
- Recover and rebound from threats and risks

Mitigation, Adaptation, and Societal Transformation (MAST) form three pillars for climate resilience:

- **Mitigation:** With the goal of bending the warming curve as soon as possible, and limiting it to below 2°C.
- **Adaptation:** Mainly through three phases: reducing sensitivity to climate change, reducing exposure to climate threats, and enhancing adaptive capacity, including with land use. It must start at the local level—community, city, or village—and scale up to the entire nation and the planet.
- **Societal Transformation:** Achieving a sustainable way of living is essential for thriving after the climate crisis. Societal Transformation involves fundamental shifts in behavior, socio-economic systems, and governance.

Sustainable Land Use: Exploring the role of forests and related nature-based solutions serves all three elements of MAST.



3. PAS/PASS Initiatives on Climate Resilience and Scope for Cooperation on the Regional Summit in West Africa and Beyond

A series of initiatives by PAS/PASS on climate policies and the climate crisis, organized by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences (PAS) and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences (PASS), have paved the way for an influential transdisciplinary alliance between climate science, social science, policy, business, and faith-based communities.

- **The Faith and Science Initiative by the Vatican:** With the leaders from about 30 world religions, including Islamic, Christian, Buddhist, etc., PAS mobilized science communities, and the Governments of the UK and Italy shaped the COP 26 agenda in Glasgow and helped place issues of water, food, and agriculture high on the agenda of COP 27 in Sharm el Sheikh and COP 28 in Dubai.
- **MAST Concept for Resilience:** In July of 2022, PAS organized a meeting of experts, at which the [MAST concept for resilience](#) was proposed and accepted by all attending experts in a conference declaration. This led to the realization that resilience must be built at the local level in cities and states (Ramanathan and von Braun 2022).¹
- **Global Summit on Innovative Solutions for Climate Resilience:** A Global summit was organized jointly by PAS and PASS on May 15-17, 2024, bringing together mayors and governors from all hemispheres to discuss and showcase innovative solutions for climate resilience. The outcome of the summit was a **Planetary Call to Action** for Climate Change Resilience signed by Pope Francis, with Ramanathan, V; Suárez-Orozco, M; von Braun, J; Alford, H; Turkson, P; and 15 other authors from PAS and PASS, signed by all attendees, including all the Mayors and Governors. The [document](#) recognizes that the climate crisis is already upon us, and that we need a new, expanded approach beyond emissions mitigation to protect people and ecosystems, and to engage with global reach at the local level. To support implementation, a series of regional summits across all hemispheres was envisioned.
- **The Regional Summits:** The regional summits in all hemispheres shall advance the call to Action for a universal protocol of resilience, as Pope Francis called it in his speech on May 16, 2024, to the global resilience summit attendees: “I commend the two Academies for producing a universal protocol of resilience”. Regional summits are planned from February 2025 to March 2026. We aim to culminate in a final comprehensive Vatican Summit in 2027 and the release of a Universal Protocol for Climate Resilience.
- **A Blueprint for Climate Resilience:** The primary outcome of the regional summits will be a blueprint for climate resilience that can be adopted locally by communities worldwide. The 2025/2026 regional summits shall advance the call to action for a universal protocol of resilience, as we aim to culminate in a final comprehensive Vatican Summit in 2027 and the release of a Universal Protocol for Climate Resilience. Thus far, regional summits have been held in Austria, Brazil, Kenya, and the United States.

¹ Ramanathan, V., and J. von Braun (Eds.). 2022. Resilience of People and Ecosystems under Climate Stress. Proceedings of the Working Group, Vatican City, July 13-14, 2022. Scripta Varia 152, LEV.

4. The West Africa and Sahelian Summit: Strategic Orientation and Implementation

- **Regional Collaboration in the Context:** Foster regional and international cooperation and knowledge sharing to develop effective, innovative, and scalable climate solutions. Tailor solutions to West Africa's unique and diverse climate challenges and socio-economic, political/governance, and cultural contexts, including exploring the role of forests and related nature-based solutions.
- **Science Communities of the Region in the Lead:** As in all PAS/PASS-stimulated regional summits, the West Africa Summit shall be guided by regional climate resilience expertise, in cooperation with PAS and PASS.
- **Community Engagement:** Involve local communities, farmers, pastoralists, Indigenous groups, and regional stakeholders in discussions and decision-making. The conference will also include and actively engage religious communities of the region, in particular Islamic and Christian communities.
- **Equity:** Ensure the summit prioritizes equity and the protection of the poorest and most vulnerable populations, including children and youth. Address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on marginalized communities and incorporate diverse perspectives in climate planning.
- **Youth Engagement:** Foster youth engagement as an integral part of the conference.

4.2 Organizational aspects and reach of the Senegal Summit

Central to the Summit are regional science communities, mayors of cities, and heads of provinces (local states) from West Africa, covering rural, urban, and coastal resilience challenges, together with youth, science, business, and civil society stakeholders.

4.3 Aiming for lasting outcomes among the Summit partners

Beyond conference reporting and platform formations, the following tangible outcomes are envisioned:

- Regional and local planning and adaptation, with a focus on financing resiliency
- High-level policy dialogue formats for resilience actions, with emphasis on inclusion and in structures dedicated to youth perspectives and science on climate change.
- Adoption of implementation methods and structured inputs to be included in the blueprint for climate resilience and the Universal Protocol for Climate Resilience.
- Strengthen capacity-building initiatives and best practices to support local implementation of climate resilience solutions.

WEST AFRICA CLIMATE RESILIENCE SUMMIT

Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, and Societal Transformation (MAST)

SUMMIT PROGRAM (GMT)

DAY 1: MARCH 23

8:00 – 8:45 Breakfast and Registration

8:50 – 9:25 Welcome Remarks

- **Dr. Ousmane Badiane**, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063
- **Prof. Joachim von Braun**, President, PAS
- **His Eminence Cardinal Peter Turkson**, Chancellor, PAS & PASS
- **Prof. Daouda Ngom**, Minister of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation, Senegal

9:30 – 9:40 Global Overview of Regional Summits

Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, University of Massachusetts Boston & PASS Council Member

9:40 – 10:40 Challenges and Best Practices for Resilience – Local Leaders

Moderator:

Mr. Alioune Ndoye, Mayor, Dakar-Plateau Municipality, Senegal

Panelists:

- **Mr. Carin Karl Atondé**, Executive Director, Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement, Benin
- **Dr. James Murombedzi**, Coordinator, African Climate Policy Center, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
- **H.E. Dr. Wilber Ottichilo**, Governor, Vihiga County, Kenya
- **Dr. Sekouna Diatta**, Mayor, Mangagoulack & Director General, Senegalese Agency for Reforestation & the Great Green Wall (ASERGMV)

10:45 – 11:05 Coffee Break

11:10 – 12:10 Financing Resiliency in West Africa: Cities and Subregions

Moderator:

Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063

DAY 1: MARCH 23 (Continued..)

Panelists:

- **Prof. Mamadou Adama Sarr**, Université Gaston Berger/Centre de Suivi Écologique
- **Dr. Ollo Sib, Researcher**, Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD)
- **Dr. Amadou Tidiane Ndiaye**, Mayor, Ronkh, Senegal
- **Dr. Arame Tall**, Senior Adaptation and Resilience Specialist, Climate Change Group, World Bank
- **Mr. Alioune Badara Kairé**, United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa – Libreville

12:15 – 13:30 Lunch

13:35 – 14:35 Climate-Driven Migration

Moderator:

Dr. Moumini Savadogo, Executive Director, West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research & Development (CORAF)

Panelists:

- **Mr. Francesco De Pasquale**, Deputy Regional Director for West & Central Africa and the Caribbean, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
- **Dr. Amadou Diaw**, Associate Researcher, Center for Risk and Vulnerability Research
- **Hon. Mamadou Bailo Oury Diallo**, President, Union of Associations of Local Elected Officials of Senegal (UAEL); Member of Parliament & Mayor, Vélingara
- **Prof. Kokunre Eghafona**, Member of PASS; Professor, Sociology & Anthropology, University of Benin

14:40 – 15:40 Green Jobs for the Future

Moderator:

Ms. Lydia Gyasi, Project Manager, B.Inspired with Stories from Africa

DAY 1: MARCH 23 (Continued..)

Panelists:

- **Mr. Richard Matey**, Executive Director, Green Africa Youth Organization
- **Mr. David Wilgenbus**, Executive Director, Office for Climate Education, Sorbonne Université
- **Dr. Fatou Gueye**, West Africa Regional Representative, Carrefour International
- **Prof. Sidia Badiane**, Professor, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar

15:45 – 16:45 Climate and the Intersection of Health and Public Health

Moderator:

Mr. Omar Cissé, Program Manager, Enda Energie

Panelists:

- **Prof. Birane Cissé**, Professor, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar
- **Dr. Codou Badiane Mané**, Climate and Health Focal Person, Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, Senegal
- **Dr. Aminata Diop**, Technical Advisor in Charge of Health and Health Promotion, Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene, Senegal
- **Dr. Issakha Diallo**, Associate Professor of Public Health, Université Amadou Hampaté BA de Dakar

16:50 – 17:40 Coffee and Interactive Consultation on MAST Solutions led by Youth

Chair:

Ms. Glory Appiah, National Coordinator, Ghana Youth Environment Movement

Facilitators:

- **Mr. Richard Matey**, Executive Director, Green Africa Youth Organization
- **Ms. Lydia Gyasi**, Project Manager, B.Inspired with Stories from Africa
- **Ms. Johanna Maass**, Regional Climate Resilience Advisor, Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
- **Mr. Djibril Niang**, Executive Director, Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement du Sénégal
- **Mme Aminata Sow**, Secretary General, Collège des Jeunes, Conseil National de Concertation et de Coopération des Ruraux (CNCR)
- **Mr. Mawugan Yesket Saint Duince Ahossouhe**, President, Benin Youth College

17:45 – 18:15 Reporting Back on Calls to Action by Youth Leaders to the Plenary

Chair:

Ms. Glory Appiah, National Coordinator, Ghana Youth Environment Movement

19:00

Conference Dinner

DAY 2: MARCH 24

8:30 – 8:55 Breakfast

8:55–9:00 Plan for the Day

Dr. Cheikh Mbow, Director General, Centre de Suivi Écologique

9:00 – 10:00 Resilience to Extreme Weather Impacts

Moderator:

Prof. Youba Sokona, Program Lead and Interim Board Member, African Institute for Sustainable Energy and Systems Analysis (AISESA) /AKADEMIYA2063

Panelists:

- **Prof. Amadou Thierno Gaye**, Distinguished Professor, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar
- **Dr. Sylvain Nafiba Ouédraogo**, Deputy Executive Secretary, Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)
- **Ms. Nehali Anupriya**, Programme Management Officer, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- **Dr. Seyni Salack**, Acting Director, Research Competence Centre, West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)

10:05 – 11:05 Land Use, Agriculture, Food System, and Bioeconomy Resilience

Moderator:

Dr. Debisi Araba, Managing Director, AKADEMIYA2063

Panelists:

- **Dr. Abdrahmane Wane**, Principal Scientist, Economist, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- **Mr. Mohamed Atani**, Head of Office for West Africa and Outreach for Africa, UN Environment Programme
- **Dr. Moustapha Gueye**, Director General, Senegalese Institute of Agricultural Research (ISRA)

11:10 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:35 – 12:35 Technologies and Translational Research for Climate Resilient Sustainable Action, including Water Management and Irrigation

Moderator:

Prof. Jean-Marie Dipama, Head of Laboratory, Université Joseph Ki Zerbo

DAY 2: MARCH 24 (Continued...)

Panelists:

- **Dr. Tamsir Mbaye**, Director, National Forestry Production Center, ISRA, Senegal
- **Dr. Racine Ly**, Director, Data Intelligence & Governance; National Representative for Senegal, AKADEMIYA2063
- **Dr. Ademonla A. Djalalou Dine**, Benin Country Director, Center for International Forestry Research & World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)

12:40 – 13:55 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Societal Transformation - Building Resilience with All Stakeholders
– Faith, and Multi-level Governance: Interfaith Dialogue

Moderator:

His Eminence Cardinal Peter Turkson, Chancellor, PAS & PASS,
TBC

Panelists:

- **Imam Babou Khalifa Aboubacar**, Président, Conseil National des Imams et Oulémas du Sénégal (CNIOS)
- **Khalif Thierno Amadou Bâ**, Khalif of Bambilor, Senegal
- **Bishop Florent Hassa Koné**, Chairman, John Paul II Foundation for the Sahel

15:05 – 15:55 Open Discussion

Facilitator:

Dr. Cheikh Mbow, Director General, Centre de Suivi Écologique

16:00 – 16:30 Way Forward with Call to Action and Closing Remarks

- **Dr. Ousmane Badiane**, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063
- **Chancellor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco**, Council, PASS
- **Prof. Joachim von Braun**, President, PAS
- **Dr. Cheikh Mbow**, Director General, Centre de Suivi Écologique
- **Representative**, Government of Senegal, TBC

Coffee and Departure



West Africa Climate Resilience Summit

