



## « Natural resources and socio-economic sensitivity facing climate change in the Oti-Volta Basin, West Africa »

Université de Kara  
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### Abstract

The interdisciplinary VolkswagenStiftung workshop on « Natural resources and socio-economic sensitivity facing climate change in the Oti-Volta Basin, West Africa » jointly organized by Goethe-University/ZIAF Frankfurt and the University of Kara/FLESH, Kara (March 6-8, 2019), aims to strengthen capacities of junior scientists from the sub-region, exchange and mobilize theoretical and methodological background from various scientific fields, and to deliver reliable elements for an ongoing and profound environmental analysis that lies outside the common questions of the academic and civil society stakeholders. Ecosystem fragmentation and deforestation are mainly triggered by humans such as agriculture and small-scale forest disturbances (e.g. for charcoal/fire wood production). The increasing population pressure and demand for agricultural land in West Africa caused the reduction of land conservation capacities, even in protected areas. The complexity of interactions between human and environmental systems and subsequent effects has raised ongoing international awareness (climate change). By the example of natural resources within the Oti-Volta Basin the workshop presents, discusses and distributes new findings that will sustainably stimulate the ongoing international debate. This workshop intends to overcome national borders and language barriers between the Anglophone (Ghana) and the Francophone (Bénin, Burkina Faso, Togo) research communities, and supports West African cooperation and networking. The young as well as the established partners will need to form new collaborations, and the event is a truly unique opportunity for all involved not only discuss science but also assess best practices for the Oti-Volta Basin.