



*First International workshop jointly organized by PREDES laboratory
(University of Kara, Togo) and the Institute of Physical Geography and ZIAF
(Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany)*

University of Kara, Kara, Togo (March 6-8, 2019)

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

Context and Problematic

This first conference jointly organized by PREDES laboratory (University of Kara, Togo) and the Institute of Physical Geography and ZIAF (Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany) proposes to gather about sixty young researchers and PhD students working in the catchment basin of Oti in West Africa, to analyze this hydrological system through a multi-field approach in order to apprehend all the stakes of development. The Oti watershed located between longitudes $0^{\circ} 15'E$ and $2^{\circ} 16'E$ and latitudes $12^{\circ} 13'N$ and $7^{\circ} 48'N$ covers an area of 73,900 km². It extends to straddle on 4 countries from West Africa namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo. Its situation in the zone of tropical climate supported the development of a varied whole of forests and savannas ecosystems of a global importance (Unep-gef Volta Project, 2013). Indeed, it houses several protected areas of which most significant are the reserve of fauna and flora of Oti-Kéran in Togo, the Hunting Park of Pendjari in Benin and the integral reserve of Pama in Burkina Faso. This catchment basin with the enormous natural potentialities is densely populated, counting more than 7000 000 inhabitants of which 80% are rural rely on natural resources directly. The occurrence of poverty is of more than 75%. The economy of the catchment area is dominated by extensive agriculture and breeding conducive to high land use. The other economic activities are industry, trade, mines and energy. The Oti watershed is tributary of the large river basin of Volta which, divided between six countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory coast, Ghana, Mali and Togo), covers a total area of 400 000 km² (B Barry and Al, 2005). Over river Volta is built the largest artificial lake in the world, the Akosombo Lake which constitutes a strategic body of socio-economic development and integration of West African states. But, the drainage basin of Oti representing less than 1/5 in surface of the basin of Volta, only provides to it close to 1/3 of river water (PNUE, 2003). The balance of the Volta river system is, due to this fact, strongly

dependent on that of the Oti hydrosystem. The objective to produce more in quantity to nourish the populations in continuous growth constrains the rapid increase of agricultural surfaces and the anarchic exploitation of plant and animal resources his anthropogenic pressure, in a context of climatic change, leads to an accelerated degradation of the environment. The menace of biodiversity loss of plants and animal species, the erosion of arable lands, urbanized surfaces and mining sites, the silting up of rivers and water reserves and the eutrophication of lakes and ponds are all manifestations of this basin degradation. In addition to these problems, one can note those related to the employment, the difficulties of providing drinking water and energy, with the problems of transport and mobility, with the problems of under-equipment of the rural and urban centers, the whole in the context of poverty. That is from where emanates the need for a rational use of the natural resources of this catchment area. It is vis-a-vis this situation that this project of conference aims like general objective at mobilizing the theoretical and methodological tools of various scientific fields, in order to approach elements of factual analysis, which make it possible to produce knowledge for better understanding the dynamic socio-economic ones and the durable management of the resources of the Oti basin. The specific objectives rising from this general objective are:

- to identify, through diagnostic studies of the ecosystems, the threats that the natural resources face, and their major causes;
- to evaluate the climate changes and its impact strength on the local populations and the countries that share the catchment area of Oti;
- to analyze the various forms of organization and adjustment of the rural and urban areas of the catchment area.
- to apprehend the role of the local actors, the civil society and the national and transnational public policies in the socio-economic development of the catchment area;

The proposals for articles will have to respect the following 3 research axes which will be the main parts of the collective book that will be published as a result of the conference:

Research Axes

Axis 1: Diagnostic studies and strategies of sustainable management of ecosystems.

Axis 2: Climate changes and Resilience in the basin of the Oti River.

Axis 3: Economic activities, mobility, role of local actors, forms of organization of the rural and urban areas and sustainable development.

How to Participate

This call to contribution is addressed to the young lecturers and researchers. Those who wish to take part in this conference are invited to submit their proposal for a presentation of two pages before November 20, 2018 at midnight to the following addresses:

predes2016@gmail.com et moutorey@yahoo.fr

The individual or collective proposals must observe the following conditions: the title of the communication, names and address, a short presentation of the author, the reference to an axis concerned, a summary of 500 signs indicating the objective of the communication, methodology and results obtained and five key words. The proposals for a communication will be examined by a scientific committee. Following the evaluation, 50 communications will be selected and authors will receive a notification of invitation to take share to the conference.

The inscription fees to the conference are fixed as follows:

Lecturers and researchers : 30 000 FCFA

Doctorants : 15 000 FCFA

Sequence of the conference: dates significant to respect

- **October 15th, 2018:** Launching of the call to communication
- **November 20th, 2018:** deadline of reception of the proposals for summaries of communication
- **December 17th, 2018:** Notification of acceptance or refusal of the communications
- **From 6th to 8th March, 2019:** course of the conference over 3 days at the University of Kara
- **March 2020:** publication of the conference proceedings

For any information, contact the following address:

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Organizing committee

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Vice-president : Prof. Dr. Jürgen Runge, Université de Frankfurt/ZIAF, Germany

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Prof Georges Compaoré, Université J-K de Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)

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