

CABES MSc. PROGRAM on:
**“Science-Policy-Practice Interfaces on Biodiversity,
Ecosystem Services and Climate Change – SPIBES
in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire**

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The CABES programme kicks off with the first call for applications to the SPIBES MSc. programme West Africa, hosted by the Africa Center of Excellence on Climate Change Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture (CEA-CCBAD), University Félix Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB), Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. Qualified candidates from **West, Central and East Africa** are welcome to apply.

The Master of Science (MSc.) programme on “Science-Policy-Practice Interfaces on Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Climate Change – SPIBES” is a two-year full-time interdisciplinary programme that aims to provide students across Western, Eastern and Central Africa with broad, high-quality knowledge and skills needed to seamlessly navigate science-policy interfaces for biodiversity conservation. The objective is to foster regional scientific collaborations and to build capacities of young experts to engage in science-policy interfaces such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on an international, regional, sub-regional and national level, specifically related to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES), policy-making and sustainable development pathways.

Sponsored by



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

based on a decision of
the German Bundestag

In partnership with

- The Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany
- African Center of Excellence on Climate Change, Biodiversity & Sustainable Agriculture (CEA-CCBAD), Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB), Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
- Faculty of Agronomic Sciences of the Université de Lubumbashi (FSA-UNILU), Democratic Republic of Congo
- Horn of Africa Regional Environment Center & Network (HoAREC), Ethiopia
- West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change & Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), Burkina Faso
- UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), United Kingdom
- CoKnow Consulting, Germany



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The programme specifically will:

- I. provide the students with a general understanding of BES and their relevance from interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives;
- II. facilitate inter- and transdisciplinary thinking to create and enable a new generation of scientists to tackle global environmental challenges;
- III. generate knowledge on the functioning and set-up of (inter)national policy processes and;
- IV. provide tools to translate research findings into policy-relevant outcomes to support decision making.

SPIBES is part of the CABES initiative - **Capacity Development for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Experts in West, Central, & East Africa** in support of IPBES. CABES is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI). CABES continues the activities of WABES, which trained two batches of graduate students, from 15 ECOWAS member states and Morocco, on science-policy interface related to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

Degree-awarding Institution: SPIBES MSc. Programme West Africa is offered by the **Africa Center of Excellence on Climate Change Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture (CEA-CCBAD), University Félix Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB), Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire** in partnership with:

- the Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany;
- the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), Cambridge, United Kingdom;
- the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), Burkina Faso;
- CoKnow Consulting, Germany;
- the Faculty of Agronomic Sciences of the Université de Lubumbashi (FSA-UNILU), Democratic Republic of Congo;
- the Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network - Addis Ababa University (HoA-REC&N-AAU)

The programme is also supported by other international partners.

LANGUAGE

As an international MSc. programme, all courses of the SPIBES programme are taught in English. English proficiency is necessary.



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WHAT WE OFFER

Language courses

At the start of the programme, successful candidates from francophone and lusophone countries will receive intensive English language training at the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny (UFHB), Côte d'Ivoire. Non-francophone students will be offered French language classes. These language courses are designed to provide our students with a thorough and practical understanding of both the English and French languages, as well as various cultures and traditions, so as to foster regional scientific collaborations and networking.

Scholarship and research support

The scholarship and research support will be provided following the criteria below:

- A stipend of € 350 per month will be paid to all selected candidates for a maximum of 24 months.
- Tuition fees and health insurance will be covered throughout the programme.
- Each student will be provided with a laptop computer to support the courses and research activities.
- Following the development and approval of a policy-relevant research project, including a budget, by a scientific committee, research funds will be made available to students. The satisfactory delivery of research deliverables and monthly progress reports is required for continued disbursement of research funds.

Furthermore, SPIBES promises a learning environment with:

- relevant scientific knowledge;
- strong regional and international networks;
- quality teaching and research infrastructures;
- quality and accredited academic training programmes;
- training through an approach centred on experiential learning;

WHO CAN APPLY?

The course is open to nationals from countries in West, Central, & East Africa with a Bachelor's or equivalent degree in natural and social sciences (biology, ecology, climate, economics, law, sociology, geography and equivalent disciplines). Candidates must be under 30 years old, unless they have established professional experience or are female parents.



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DOCUMENTS REQUIREMENT

We ask you to upload **one single pdf file (max file size: 6 MB)** containing the following documents:

- A motivation letter, including information on academic and personal qualification(s) as well as interests in research in the Science-Policy Interface on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Sustainable Development, and supporting the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- A CV
- A copy of University degree(s) and the Baccalaureate or equivalent secondary school certificate;
- Provide the name and contact of a reference person in degree institution;

All selected candidates are required to complete the programme and need to sign a corresponding entry form after selection.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND CONTACT

Candidates must apply online via CABES application portal (<http://www.cabes.online>). Applicants are expected to fill out the **online application form** and upload relevant application documents **as one single PDF file (max file size: 6 MB)**.

For all enquiries, contact:

SPIBES Secretariat Abidjan, Dr. KOUADIO Kouakou (kouakou.kouadio34@ufhb.edu.ci), or

The CABES Secretariat (info@cabes.online)

For more details about the programme, please visit the CABES website at <http://www.cabes.online>

Application deadline: June 30, 2022, or until all positions are filled

The shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview (via telephone, video conferencing or face-to-face). After the rounds of interviews, the final list of candidates will be published by July 31, 2022. Courses are scheduled to begin August 30th, 2022, for the 2022/23 academic year.

Successful candidates should note that the originals of certificates and other requisite documents **MUST** be presented at the time of registration at UFHB to validate admission decisions.