

**A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER A ONE-DAY HYBRID VALIDATION MEETING ON MIGRAWARE RESEARCH OUTPUT IN NIGERIA THAT HELD ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2024 IN STRATTON HOTEL, ASOKORO, ABUJA**



**INTRODUCTION:**

The one-day workshop took place against the backdrop of growing awareness about the effect of climate change drivers on rural to urban (including cross-border influence) migration on the one hand and the impact of scientific research outcomes on existing migration policy and governance on the other. The core value of the MIGRAWARE project was to keep governments and other stakeholders in the migration discourse at the heart of its research protocols in order to ensure the outcomes are well appreciated, used, and serve as a well-structured baseline reference for these institutions.

The workshop was organized purposely to present and validate the results of the research conducted in Nigeria by the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use's Doctoral Research Programme on Climate Change and Human Habitat (WASCAL DRP on CCHH) and the Department of Geography, both in the Federal University of Technology, Minna, in collaboration with Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg (Germany), the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), CoKnow (Germany), PiSolutions (Germany), the University of Würzburg (Germany), the University of Cape Coast (Ghana), the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (Ghana), Hen Mpoano (Ghana), and the University of Nazi Boni (Burkina Faso).

Held at Stratton Hotel, Asokoro, Abuja (FCT), Nigeria, key stakeholders from the Federal Ministry for Interior (represented by the Senior Special Advisor on Research and Strategy to the Honorable

Minister for Interior, Dr Kareem Olagoku), the Nigeria Immigration Service (FCT Command, Gwagwalada), the Federal Road Safety Corps. (FCT Command), the Federal Ministry of Environment, the Office of the National Coordinator of UNDP's Global Environment Fund (GEF), the International Office for Migration (IOM), the National Commission for Refugees Migrant and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), Women in Environment Programme (WEP), the MIGRAWARE Consortium Project Assistant (who ably represented the Scientific Coordinator of MIGRAWARE, Prof. Christine Fürst) and the MIGRAWARE Research Team in Nigeria were physically present; while online participants included the following, namely, the Project Coordinator from WASCAL Competence Centre, Ouagadougou), representatives of the MIGRAWARE Consortium in West Africa (University of Cape Coast, Ghana; and University of Nazi Boni, Burkina Faso), in Germany (Martin Luther University in Halle, German Aerospace Centre and the University of Würzburg), and Environment and Migration issues enthusiasts from the Old Girls' Association of the Federal Government Girls College, Abuloma, Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Several presentations were made of some of the outputs from the MIGRAWARE Research Consortium that covered the six (6) MIGRAWARE work packages (drivers and factors, mobility analysis using big data, governance and citizen science, knowledge integration and modeling, outreach and communication and, finally, coordination and management) and as well as capacity building opportunities in the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

## **OBSERVATIONS:**

Following the presentations and discussions, the participants observed that:

- (1) Awareness still has to be created, especially at the policy-making level on migration governance, mobility, and resilience.
- (2) There is the need to integrate the outputs of the Nigerian contribution of the MIGRAWARE project into the existing national policies on migration, immigration acts, and immigration regulations.
- (3) Smuggling of irregular (undocumented) migrants and human trafficking were not considered in the study.
- (4) There is a gap in the 2015 migration policy on migration, insecurity, and climate change.
- (5) Inadequate access to migration data and spatial data hinders migration research.
- (6) Non-availability of recent census data limits value addition to migration research.
- (7) Sustainability of trained Masters and PhD students, desk officers from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), and other stakeholders on migration research remains a challenge.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

In view of the observations made, the participants recommended the following actions:

- (1) Intensify capacity-building programs through short courses on migration drivers and methodologies suggested through the MIGRAWARE project. Relevant MDAs to collaborate with WASCAL CCHH to train personnel on recent migration research methodologies (citizen science approaches and spatial analysis) and policy research.
- (2) Build resilience at the local level by creating awareness of migration governance. Suggestions on decentralizing the proposed MIGRAWARE governance framework could suffice.

- (3) WASCAL CCHH should collaborate with the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to thoroughly review the country report of the MIGRAWARE project.
- (4) Migration, internal security, and climate change should be adopted into the migration policy and immigration guidelines.
- (5) Government's commitment to conducting a national census is imperative for successful migration research.
- (6) The Department of Climate Change under the Ministry of Environment should leverage on the outcomes of the WASCAL CCHH-led MIGRAWARE project to domesticate the KAMPALA Declaration in Nigeria.
- (7) Data from migration research projects, gathered in collaboration with MDAs, ought to be regarded as legitimate resources for government projections and planning.

**SGD:**

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**More Details on MIGRAWARE:**

<https://wascal.futminna.edu.ng/>

<http://migra-ware.com/>