

TERMS OF REFERENCE

VOLTRES PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Preamble

Africa is very likely to experience higher temperature increases than the rest of the earth during the 21st century. Extreme rainfall events are predicted to increase for West Africa. Climate Change (CC) will influence the ecosystem in lakes by changing the physical (water temperature, stratification, transparency), chemical (nutrient loading, oxygen) and biological (structure and functioning of the ecosystem) components.

The Volta Lake is the main source of inland fish in Ghana, a source of livelihood for over 1200 riparian communities and the main medium for cage fish farming in Ghana. The fishery of the lake is heavily exploited and CC is expected to worsen the situation. VOLTRES will assess the impact of CC on hydrology, water quality, primary production and fish production of the Lake and improve the understanding of the ecosystem functioning through a combination of field data sampling with empirical biophysical and mechanistic ecological modeling of the catchment-lake system. The river basin and lake ecosystem models will be validated using existing data as well as data generated through monitoring. Results lessons, skills and recommendations from the project will be disseminated through stakeholder workshops, seminars, policy briefs, and journal publications. The output will contribute significantly towards addressing the major needs identified in the Ghana national CC Adaptation Strategy in the design and implementation of programmes on fishery management.

The project ‘Effect of climate change on Lake Volta Resources’ (VOLTRES) is a collaborative research between scientist from the CSIR Water Research Institute, Ghana and Department of Bioscience, Aarhus University, Denmark and funded by DANIDA.

To help achieve the goals of the project a Project Advisory Committee have been established to provide external advice to the project team.

The Project Advisory Committee will:

- i. Advise on issues relating to the implementation of project activities
- ii. Assist in developing research and policy briefs.
- iii.
- iv. Assist project team to build collaboration with and access needed information/data from relevant institutions/associations/groups.
- v. Meet with project team at their annual review meetings where project progress will be presented and annual work plans discussed.
- vi. Assist in developing dissemination strategies and implementation of project outputs by relevant state institutions and end users