

## Flash Report

### ArcX Regional Workshops – Lomé (Togo) and Johannesburg (South Africa)

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#### Scene setting:

Following the request made by the ArcX partnership during the 2025 ArcX Forum to ensure that programme actions are effectively integrated within diverse regional contexts, the Technical Assistance (TA) team took the lead in organising a series of regional workshops. These workshops were designed to explore the breadth and scope of opportunities for strengthening regional engagement and enhancing interactions among stakeholders within the framework of the Programme. Through the implementation of the two workshops in West and Southern Africa, the TA is seeking to better understand regional priorities, foster collaboration, and identify practical pathways for maximising the Programme's impact across different regions.

The first **ArcX West Africa Workshop took place in Lomé, Togo, from 22 to 24 June 2026**. It brought together a total of 57 participants, with 42 attending in person and 15 participating online.

The ArcX Regional Workshop, titled “*Interactions between Urban and Rural Environments and Ecosystem Sustainability in West Africa*,” was held at the Hotel 2 Février. The workshop included participants from the ArcX coordinating institutions (CIFOR-ICRAF, ECMWF, FARA/RUFORUM, Mercator Ocean International, and Stellenbosch University), the European Union Delegation in Togo, the JRC, the Regional Centres of Excellence-RCoEs (CSE, CORAF, and UCAD), and Government of Togo representatives. Additionally, attendance included representatives from development partner organisations (UN-Habitat, NaturAfrica, AESA), and sixteen representatives from academia, civil society and the private sector.

The subsequent **Southern Africa Regional Workshop took place from 7 to 9 July 2026 at the Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre in Johannesburg**. It saw the presence of 33 in person participants and 30 attending online.

The theme, “*Strengthening Transboundary Basin Cooperation for Disaster Risk Prevention and Preparedness*”, provided an integrated frame to address fragmentation at the level of river basins. The workshop benefited from the participation of the African Union Commission, represented by Mr Harsen Nyambe and Ms Teresa Pinto. Attendance also included the RCoEs (CCARDESA, CIFOR-ICRAF, ECMWF, FARA/RUFORUM, ICIPE, RCMRD and the Stellenbosch University), DG INTPA and JRC, representatives of South African Government bodies (CSIR, DSTI), regional partners (GWP) and academia, and ZAMCOM, the Zambezi River Basin Authority.

#### Assessment:

#### Participation

- **West Africa:** Beyond the active contributions of the regional RCoEs, the presence and engagement of the former WAEMU Commission Head of Division for Environment and Climate Change, Dr. Cheikh Tidiane Kane, and the UN-Habitat Regional Representative,

*Dr. Mathias Spaliviero, significantly strengthened ArcX's institutional positioning across the region.*

- ***Southern Africa:*** *The African Union Commission (AUC) Director of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE), Mr. Harsen Nyambe, together with AUC Disaster Risk Reduction Expert Ms. Teresa Pinto presence throughout the workshop significantly strengthened the ArcX Programme's institutional linkages with key African institutions.*
- ***National:*** *In both countries, the engagement of the Minister of Environment and senior technical officials (in Togo), alongside representatives from South Africa's Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), helped advance the integration of the ArcX Programme into national policy and institutional processes while strengthening its alignment with African government priorities.*

*For a more detailed overview of participation, please refer to the "Details" section below.*

### ***Collaboration***

- *Presentations delivered by DG INTPA, the EU Delegation to Botswana in Johannesburg, and UN-Habitat in Lomé on ongoing and forthcoming Team Europe and other strategic initiatives fostered constructive and forward-looking dialogue on opportunities to strengthen collaboration. The discussions highlighted the potential role of the RCoEs in providing high-quality, evidence-based technical expertise, analytical support, innovation and knowledge products to inform the design, implementation, monitoring, and scaling of these initiatives, thereby enhancing their effectiveness, sustainability, and overall development impact.*

### ***Engagement***

- *The high-level contributions from WAEMU and UN-Habitat during the **West Africa** workshop fostered strategic dialogue, strengthened regional ownership, and enabled a coherent and forward-looking assessment of the key challenges underpinning the workshop's thematic focus, while enhancing the relevance of the discussions for future regional action.*
- *The AUC ARBE engagement throughout the regional workshop for **Southern Africa** elevated the strategic dialogue and reinforced the ArcX Programme's alignment with continental priorities. Furthermore, Mr. Nyambe's invitation for the RCoEs to contribute to forthcoming African ministerial events (e.g. AMCOW, AMCEN and STC-ARDWE) represents a significant milestone in bridging the gap between scientific research and policy-making, creating new opportunities to ensure that evidence generated through ArcX informs high-level decision-making processes across the continent.*

## ***Additional Considerations***

*Interest in the AKP has remained consistently high across participants. However, despite the efforts undertaken by the JRC to enhance its accessibility and ensure transparent and secure data governance, actual uptake and regular use of the platform remain limited. This suggests that additional measures may be needed to better align the platform with users' needs, strengthen awareness of its added value, and promote its integration into the day-to-day work of the Regional Centres of Excellence and other stakeholders.*

*Despite the extensive consultations undertaken and the agreements reached during the first ArcX Steering Committee in 2025, discussions during the workshops suggest that these messages have not yet been fully disseminated to the RCoEs operating along sectors' consortia. This appears to reflect the historical and contractual arrangements established under previous implementation arrangements, which continue to shape stakeholders' understanding of the programme.*

*The discussions underscored the persistent challenges of establishing sustainable, demand-driven service delivery models across African academic and research networks. While institutional, financial, and operational constraints continue to limit scalability and long-term sustainability, the exchanges also highlighted emerging innovations, promising practices, and collaborative approaches that offer a strong foundation for advancing more resilient and responsive service ecosystems.*

*Another key theme that emerged was the significant effort still required to strengthen the interface between research and policymaking. According to participants, this entails not only enhancing the uptake of research evidence in policy formulation and decision-making processes but also fostering closer collaboration between researchers and policymakers throughout the research cycle. Participants identified the strategic role of intermediaries in facilitating dialogue, knowledge exchange, alongside establishing more systematic and institutionalised linkages between the research and policy spheres, were highlighted as a viable approach.*

## **Details:**

### **West Africa Regional Workshop**

#### **Day 1 – Establishing a common vision for collaboration**

The first day focused on building a shared understanding of the objectives of the ArcX Programme and the need for closer collaboration across sectors to address interconnected regional challenges. Discussions highlighted the unique opportunity offered by ArcX to bring together institutions working in biodiversity, agriculture, water, climate, urban development and other fields under a common framework.

Participants reflected on the evolving international cooperation landscape, including the implications of the EU Global Gateway strategy, and discussed how research institutions can

strengthen partnerships with the private sector and better demonstrate the societal value of research.

The panel discussion provided an important opportunity to step back and reflect more holistically on the wide range of approaches and methodologies available to support integrated solutions to address the divide between urban and rural contexts. These included landscape approaches, sustainable urbanisation, spatial planning, harmonised frameworks, bioeconomy, socio-ecological approaches and the inclusion of women and youth. Participants agreed that these experiences provide a strong basis for developing more coordinated and multisectoral responses to regional challenges.

## **Day 2 – Strengthening research collaboration, data sharing and science-policy dialogue**

The second day explored practical mechanisms to improve collaboration between research institutions, policymakers and other stakeholders.

Discussions on the AKP identified the need to increase awareness and ownership of the platform among partners. Participants emphasised the importance of addressing issues related to data ownership, governance, sustainability, interoperability and secure data sharing, while recognising the platform's potential to facilitate cross-border and cross-sector analysis. Several RCoEs requested additional technical support and capacity building to maximise the use of the platform.

Participants also discussed approaches to improve data sharing and stakeholder engagement, stressing the importance of involving national authorities, strengthening stakeholder mapping and ensuring that data used for territorial analysis are comprehensive and of high quality. Participants recommended integrating multiple data sources, expanding AI applications, strengthening the SustainSahel model, promoting Living Labs and collaborative governance, mobilising investment through information systems and ensuring the long-term sustainability of IMET.

Another key topic was the science-policy interface. Participants examined the role of intermediary actors, such as civil society organisations, media, professional networks and advocacy groups, in translating research into policy action. Initial discussions also considered how collaboration with the private sector could increase the uptake and impact of research, with this topic carried forward into the following day.

## **Day 3 – From dialogue to joint action**

The final day focused on translating discussions into concrete opportunities for future collaboration, including exploring ways to strengthen the integration of the private sector into the research and innovation landscape.

Working sessions explored how governments, research organisations and the private sector can work together to mobilise investment, develop innovative services and strengthen multisectoral partnerships. A parallel session examined how youth, start-ups and innovation ecosystems can contribute to accelerating the green transition.

Participants identified a number of priority areas for future collaboration, including strengthening intersectoral cooperation, expanding the use of the AKP, improving cross-sector data sharing, mapping institutional capacities and stakeholder roles, developing joint products and services, promoting nature-based solutions and green finance, reinforcing the sustainability of the RCoEs and enhancing communication and visibility.

The workshop concluded with a plenary discussion to consolidate the suggestions gathered and identify priority actions to be taken forward collectively. Participants also explored how these actions could be translated into concrete outcomes, proposing the establishment of an *ad hoc* working group to drive this work forward.

### **Southern Africa Regional Workshop**

#### **Day 1 – Establishing a common vision for collaboration**

Discussions opened by reaffirming the shared commitment of the AUC and the EU to strengthening the Europe-Africa partnership and advancing the objectives of the ArcX Programme. Participants reviewed the work of the RCoEs in biodiversity, agroecology, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction, highlighting the complementary expertise of the Centres and the importance of cross-sector knowledge exchange. Existing collaborations with continental and international initiatives, including the AU, the CBD Technical Support Centres and NaturAfrica, were presented, alongside innovative approaches based on artificial intelligence, machine learning, open data and co-development with regional partners. The opening discussions also identified a number of cross-cutting themes that would shape the workshop, including data governance, science-policy engagement, the circular economy and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Participants then explored the interconnected nature of transboundary river basins and the cascading impacts of floods, droughts and cyclones across sectors such as water, agriculture, infrastructure, health and livelihoods. The discussions highlighted agroecology as an important contribution to integrated watershed management, while recognising institutional fragmentation as one of the main barriers to effective transboundary cooperation. Drawing on experiences such as ZAMCOM, participants emphasised the need to strengthen connections between sectors and between science, policy and practice, improve data sharing and institutional coordination across countries and align national and regional priorities. The discussions also highlighted opportunities to strengthen collaboration with the private sector through EU initiatives, including the Global Gateway.

#### **Day 2 – Strengthening research collaboration, data sharing and science-policy dialogue**

The second day focused first on knowledge integration and the role of data in supporting evidence-based decision-making. Participants examined the contribution of AUDA-NEPAD to continental knowledge sharing and discussed the AKP as a common mechanism for integrating information across the ArcX Programme. Discussions covered governance arrangements, interoperability with existing platforms, the role of the RCoEs, technical support provided by the

JRC and the importance of developing analytical capabilities that go beyond data storage. Participants agreed on the need to strengthen the AKP as a shared platform, improve interoperability among existing systems and promote the integration of multi-sector datasets.

The discussions then turned to strengthening the science-policy-practice interface and enhancing the integration of ArcX within continental and regional frameworks. Participants explored opportunities to connect ArcX activities with AU initiatives, SADC protocols and the Team Europe Initiative, while emphasising the importance of building on existing mechanisms rather than creating new ones. Particular attention was given to the strategic role of universities, science, technology and innovation within the AU agenda, as well as the value of existing datasets held by the AU and Regional Economic Communities. Proposed approaches focused on increasing coordination with continental initiatives, making better use of regional policy processes and strengthening the long-term sustainability and visibility of the RCoEs through closer engagement with AU institutions.

Finally, participants examined how scientific evidence can more effectively inform policy and investment decisions. Participants discussed the challenges of translating research into practical policy recommendations, the limitations of existing communication products and the importance of engaging decision-makers throughout the research process. The discussions highlighted the value of tailoring communication to different audiences and making better use of existing intermediaries to strengthen evidence-based decision-making and create investment opportunities. Recommendations included producing clearer policy messages, involving policy-makers from the earliest stages of research and developing communication approaches that support cross-sector investment.

### **Day 3 – From dialogue to joint action**

During the last day, discussions explored opportunities to strengthen innovation ecosystems by building partnerships between research institutions, universities, the private sector and young entrepreneurs. Discussions focused on scalable business models for flood forecasting, drought monitoring, early warning systems, risk mapping and emergency communication, as well as the role of incubators and science-based start-ups in accelerating the uptake of innovation. Working group discussions further examined mechanisms for collaboration between governments, basin organisations, research institutions and private companies, particularly in relation to data sharing, technology deployment and sustainable financing for disaster risk prevention and preparedness systems.

Participants concluded by suggesting stronger multi-stakeholder partnerships, increased support for innovation ecosystems and collaborative pilot projects, together with sustainable financing mechanisms to ensure the long-term impact of ArcX activities across Southern Africa.

Participants volunteered to form a core working group to develop a joint initiative that could serve as a concrete example of collaborative action, bringing together the different aspects discussed throughout the workshop.

## Participation Overview

| ArcX Regional Workshops – Participation Overview                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                             | ArcX West Africa<br>REGIONAL WORKSHOP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | ArcX Southern Africa<br>REGIONAL WORKSHOP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <br>PARTICIPATION          |  43 registered participants<br> 42 participants on Day 1<br> 15 online participants on Day 1                                                                                                   |  31 registered participants<br> 33 participants on Day 1, including 11 walk-ins<br> Ca. 30 online participants on Day 1                                                                                        |
| <br>GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY |  12 countries represented<br> 4 <b>European:</b> Belgium, France, Germany, Italy<br> 8 <b>African,</b> including: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and Uganda |  13 countries represented<br> 3 <b>European:</b> Belgium, Germany and Italy<br> 10 <b>African,</b> including: Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe |
| <br>GENDER BALANCE         |  31 male participants<br> 9 female participants                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  33 male participants<br> 21 female participants                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## Conclusions and way forward

*Across the first two ArcX Regional Workshops, a consistent perception has emerged among participants regarding the ArcX Programme's progressive evolution and increasing maturity. This growing recognition suggests that the strategic direction pursued to date is yielding positive results, reinforcing confidence in the programme's approach and its ability to respond to stakeholders' expectations. The Technical Assistance team is currently exploring appropriate methodologies to systematically capture and, where feasible, quantify this evolving perception in order to provide robust evidence of the programme's institutional progress and added value.*

*In both workshops, participants agreed to establish two core working groups bringing together sector experts and the TA team. These groups will serve as practical platforms for co-creating concrete opportunities for cross-sectoral collaboration and for translating research evidence into coordinated policy and programme action. Detailed planning is currently under preparation from the TA.*

*To encourage greater uptake of the AKP and strengthen data contributions from the RCoEs, the TA team and the JRC should jointly develop a more targeted outreach and user engagement strategy. Feedback from participants, including representatives of the CSE during the West Africa Workshop, highlighted the need for a more structured dissemination and capacity-building approach. This could include a series of dedicated webinars, hands-on online training sessions, and modular tutorials focused on specific sections and functionalities of the platform, with the objective of improving users' familiarity, confidence, and sustained engagement with the AKP.*

*Pilot initiatives led by UCAD and CORAF in West Africa, together with the LaunchLab innovation incubator of the Stellenbosch University, demonstrate the potential to strengthen research commercialisation, innovation ecosystems, and academia–industry collaboration. If successfully scaled and adapted to diverse regional contexts, these initiatives could serve as important catalysts for transforming entrenched research practices, fostering entrepreneurial mindsets, creating pathways for youth employment and empowerment, and enhancing the contribution of African higher education institutions to sustainable socio-economic development.*

### **West Africa Regional Workshop - Material**

- *Presentations*
  - *Day 1:*  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nXJwUBvNCFhLKXGYpx6KdcE32Nqt1OMo?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nXJwUBvNCFhLKXGYpx6KdcE32Nqt1OMo?usp=drive_link)
  - *Day 2:*  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kXFab0uKgyJYl0sCMrcTcsTtegMnpG-5?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kXFab0uKgyJYl0sCMrcTcsTtegMnpG-5?usp=drive_link)
- *Photos*
  - *Day 1:*  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gR7zXlGym\\_CFNPLKz5aQsVwWq-mm5FoL?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gR7zXlGym_CFNPLKz5aQsVwWq-mm5FoL?usp=drive_link)
  - *Day 2:* [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u-FCxvmgdvI7j3DqGfLO70L\\_23HeKdiD?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u-FCxvmgdvI7j3DqGfLO70L_23HeKdiD?usp=drive_link)
  - *Day 3:*  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dAK8twFWWwP7WbIEmpzs8j58f7-TLYNc?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dAK8twFWWwP7WbIEmpzs8j58f7-TLYNc?usp=drive_link)
- *Videos:* [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IsUTcRUnLI6uY1IQL-bCg5HI50ntMgw7?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IsUTcRUnLI6uY1IQL-bCg5HI50ntMgw7?usp=drive_link)

### **Southern Africa Regional Workshop - Material**

- *Presentations*
  - *Day 1:*  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DhCTqXIG1QnmBREAAgMtMEObvS9tPObwM?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DhCTqXIG1QnmBREAAgMtMEObvS9tPObwM?usp=drive_link)

- Day 2:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XT3b4oL49l5aWc71Ks0z9605N9f8tp8A?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XT3b4oL49l5aWc71Ks0z9605N9f8tp8A?usp=drive_link)
- Day 3:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jF\\_2mIhQcOjs0Xlk4hhIucin1b2Ddo1?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jF_2mIhQcOjs0Xlk4hhIucin1b2Ddo1?usp=drive_link)
- Photos
  - Day 1: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vTRgLiU-EBl6sy5oqJ81hY2DcZ73yjXI?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vTRgLiU-EBl6sy5oqJ81hY2DcZ73yjXI?usp=drive_link)
  - Day 2: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12XwcjkXUHxbpbRfUOyiZOhl-kZgedZ6t?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12XwcjkXUHxbpbRfUOyiZOhl-kZgedZ6t?usp=drive_link)
  - Day 3:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mFa3SzWBqpV6eKdgUYw6zLghQPpD5qsQ?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mFa3SzWBqpV6eKdgUYw6zLghQPpD5qsQ?usp=drive_link)
- Videos :  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19vm2zXIFl5qNQNF7EYIFYhaELMpz7q?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19vm2zXIFl5qNQNF7EYIFYhaELMpz7q?usp=drive_link)

# Atelier Régional ArcX – Afrique de l'Ouest | Lomé, 22-24 juin 2026

Tableau de synthèse par session : thèmes, points de discussion et recommandations

| SESSION    | THÈME                                                               | POINTS DE DISCUSSION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | RECOMMANDATIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Session 1  | Overview of the ArcX ecosystem in West Africa                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Présentation des travaux des différents centres d'excellence (Biodiversité, Agroécologie, eau, résilience climatique et Océan)</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>–</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Session 2  | Share understanding of the urban-rural interface in West Africa     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Interactions entre espaces urbains et ruraux comme enjeu majeur de durabilité</li><li>– Politiques publiques sectorielles face à des défis territoriaux interconnectés, de sécurité, de mobilité, d'accès aux ressources, d'aménagement territorial, etc.</li><li>– Capital naturel comme moteur du développement économique régional, Bioéconomie : opportunités pour le secteur privé et d'emploi pour les jeunes et les femmes</li><li>– Fragmentation institutionnelle limitant la gestion intégrée des ressources naturelles et l'impact des politiques publiques en Afrique de l'Ouest</li><li>– Défis liés à la sécurité alimentaire (prospectives sur la pêche, élevage, agriculture)</li><li>– Partenariat avec le secteur privé : La problématique du niveau d'implication du secteur privé a été souligné</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Promouvoir une approche multi-acteurs et multi-échelles pour concilier davantage le développement économique et résilience</li><li>– Valoriser durablement la biodiversité comme pilier des stratégies territoriales à travers l'intégration de la bioéconomie comme concept dans le cadre de l'aménagement et du développement territorial</li><li>– Renforcer les mécanismes de coordination intersectorielle à toutes les échelles</li><li>– Mobiliser les Centres Régionaux d'Excellence pour le partage de connaissances</li><li>– Partager les données pour prédire les investissements préjudiciables à la biodiversité</li><li>– Construire des bases de données pour approfondir les analyses d'évaluation d'impact environnemental</li><li>– Revoir le business plan des RoC en lien avec le secteur privé (développement des activités génératrices de revenus pour les Centres)</li></ul>                        |
| Session 3  | Solutions transformatrices, secteur privé et innovation             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Fermes modèles et innovations agroécologiques conciliant productivité et résilience</li><li>– Recherche encore peu valorisée à travers des chaînes de valeur créatrices d'emploi</li><li>– Jeunes comme acteurs de l'innovation, pas uniquement bénéficiaires</li><li>– Secteur privé identifié comme levier de financement et de diffusion des solutions</li><li>– Données environnementales et technologies numériques comme opportunités entrepreneuriales</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Transformer les résultats de recherche en opportunités économiques concrètes (exemple ferme Aquacole Togo)</li><li>– Impliquer le secteur privé en préservant les objectifs de durabilité et d'équité</li><li>– Promouvoir l'entrepreneuriat vert auprès des jeunes</li><li>– Développer des chaînes de valeur inclusives</li><li>– Construire un réseau régional de Living Lab Agroécologie (ArcX Living Labs Networks)</li><li>– Construire une académie régionale de métiers verts</li><li>– Créer un programme régional d'incubation de starts-up agroécologique</li><li>– Territorialiser les Centres d'Excellence (ArcX territorial innovation Hubs)</li></ul> <p><b>Message clé : Créer un réseau africain de Living Labs agroécologique et d'incubateurs territoriaux endossés aux RoC afin de transformer les connaissances scientifiques en emplois verts, entreprises rurales et résilience territoriales</b></p> |
| Session 4A | Axe A : Science–Politique–Pratique                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Interface science-politique insuffisamment développée</li><li>– Décideurs en besoin d'informations synthétiques et directement exploitables</li><li>– Africa Knowledge Platform (AKP) perçue comme outil stratégique mais sa durabilité est incertaine</li><li>– Résultats scientifiques insuffisamment traduits en produits adaptés aux décideurs</li><li>– Nécessité de vulgariser l'AKP</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Produire des notes de politique, tableaux de bord et outils de visualisation accessibles</li><li>– Assurer la durabilité et l'appropriation de l'AKP par les partenaires</li><li>– Associer davantage les chercheurs aux processus d'élaboration des stratégies nationales</li><li>– Aligner les résultats scientifiques sur les priorités nationales</li><li>– Renforcer les capacités des RCoE et des pays sur l'utilisation des produits de l'AKP</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Session 4B | Axe B : Partage de données et intelligence environnementale et IMET | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Systèmes de données actuels fragmentés entre secteurs (environnement, climat, agriculture...)</li><li>– Défi principal : transformer les données en décisions, pas seulement les collecter</li><li>– IA identifiée comme opportunité pour le suivi des aires protégées, les alertes précoces et la surveillance environnementale</li><li>– IE est une opportunité pour le secteur privé et les startups et les jeunes,</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Promouvoir l'IE pour mieux intégrer les données environnementales, climatiques, agricoles et socio-économiques</li><li>– Mobiliser l'IA pour automatiser les analyses et améliorer les alertes précoces</li><li>– Promouvoir le modèle SustainSahel en l'enrichissant avec des données sur la biodiversité, l'eau</li><li>– Développer des Living Labs pour co-construire des solutions avec les communautés</li><li>– Mettre en place une gouvernance territoriale concertée pour réduire les conflits d'usage</li><li>– Utiliser les systèmes d'information pour mobiliser les financements et orienter les investissements</li><li>– Poursuivre la promotion de l'IMET notamment au niveau des pays,</li><li>– Réfléchir sur la durabilité de l'IMET</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                            |

| SESSION        | THÈME                                                            | POINTS DE DISCUSSION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | RECOMMANDATIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                |                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Savoirs locaux insuffisamment intégrés aux connaissances scientifiques</li><li>– Des initiatives existent comme SustainSahel résultats et modèles à promouvoir et enrichir</li><li>– Adoption de l'IMET notamment au niveau des pays,</li><li>– La durabilité de IMET</li></ul>                                                               | <b><i>Message clé : Mettre en place d'un groupe de travail interRCoE (Biodiversité, Agroécologie, Climat, Eau, Océan) sur le développement de l'intelligence environnemental et la modélisation territoriale intégrée</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Session 4C     | Axe C : Engagement des parties prenantes                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Modèle développé par le CSE avec GDZHAO/GMES et SERVIR dès le début des programmes à travers la cartographie des parties prenantes, l'analyse des besoins et la mise en place de communautés de pratique</li><li>– Des modèles développés par RAMP AO pour l'élaboration des PAG des AMP et la mise en place du Living lab, etc.</li></ul>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Promouvoir le modèle CSE sur l'engagement des parties prenantes, associant pleinement femmes, jeunes, communautés locales et secteur privé)</li><li>– Mobiliser et renforcer les structures existantes plutôt que les remplacer</li><li>– Promouvoir le modèle RAMP AO (Living Labs Bleu Climate)</li><li>– Consolider les mécanismes de collaboration régionale multi-acteurs (communautés de pratiques, living Lab)</li></ul>                                                                             |
| Session 5      | Communication scientifique et influence des politiques publiques | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Décideurs ne maîtrisant pas le langage scientifique technique</li><li>– Communication scientifique peu développée comme compétence stratégique</li><li>– Qualité des données liée à la crédibilité institutionnelle et à la mobilisation de ressources</li><li>– Dialogue insuffisant entre chercheurs, communicateurs et décideurs</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Traduire les résultats scientifiques en messages simples, clairs et orientés vers l'action</li><li>– Développer la communication pour la décision comme compétence stratégique</li><li>– Renforcer la qualité et la fiabilité des données pour asseoir la crédibilité institutionnelle</li><li>– Aligner les résultats scientifiques sur les priorités nationales et les besoins des utilisateurs</li><li>– Utiliser les données pour justifier les investissements et mobiliser les financements</li></ul> |
| Sessions 6 & 7 | Consolidation, partenariats et investissements                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Opportunités de collaboration entre gouvernements, instituts de recherche et secteur privé</li><li>– Nécessité de passer à l'échelle les innovations existantes</li><li>– Dividende démographique : jeunes comme moteur de développement économique</li><li>– Intégration régionale et continentale comme cadre des actions ArcX</li></ul>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Promouvoir l'investissement dans les services répondant aux défis urbains-ruraux</li><li>– Développer des incubateurs et start-ups pour mobiliser les jeunes entrepreneurs</li><li>– Identifier les activités intersectorielles à mettre en œuvre dans le cadre ArcX</li><li>– Renforcer l'intégration régionale et continentale des initiatives</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                  |
| Session finale |                                                                  | Recommandations de l'atelier                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

# ArcX Regional Workshop – Southern Africa | Johannesburg, 6-9 July 2026

*Summary of themes, discussion points and suggestions*

## Session 1 – Opening and Setting the Context

- Reaffirmed the commitment of the African Union Commission and the European Union to strengthening the Europe-Africa partnership.
- Established a common understanding of the ArcX Programme objectives and expected outcomes.
- Presented the work of the Regional Centres of Excellence across biodiversity, agroecology, climate resilience and disaster risk reduction.
- Highlighted the complementary expertise of the Centres and the value of knowledge exchange across sectors.
- Showcased existing collaborations with continental and international initiatives, including the African Union, CBD Technical Support Centres and NaturAfrica.
- Emphasised innovative approaches based on AI, open data, machine learning and co-development with regional partners.
- Identified cross-cutting issues for further discussion, including data governance, science-policy engagement, the circular economy and multi-stakeholder consultation approaches.

## Session 2 – Shared Understanding of Multisystems, Cooperation Gaps and Opportunities

- **Focus:** i) transboundary river basins as interconnected multi-sector systems; ii) cascading impacts of floods, droughts and cyclones across water, agriculture, infrastructure, health and livelihoods; iii) contribution of agroecology to integrated watershed management; iv) institutional fragmentation as a major obstacle to effective transboundary cooperation; v) experience of ZAMCOM as an example of integrated basin governance; vi) need to strengthen connections between sectors and between science, policy and practice; vii) importance of sharing data and knowledge more effectively, reducing institutional silos and avoiding duplication, aligning national and regional priorities and recognising common challenges across sectors; and viii) opportunities for the Regional Centres of Excellence to align with EU priorities, including the Global Gateway initiative.
- **Suggestions:**
  - strengthening cross-sector collaboration and integrated basin governance;
  - improving data sharing and institutional coordination across countries and sectors.
  - increasing engagement with policy-makers and strengthening science-policy-practice linkages.
  - enhancing collaboration with the private sector through Global Gateway and related EU initiatives.

## Session 3 – Knowledge Sharing, Science and Data Integration

- **Focus:** i) AUDA-NEPAD's role in promoting continental knowledge sharing and regional connectivity; ii) the Africa Knowledge Platform (AKP) as a mechanism for integrating knowledge across ArcX; iii) opportunities for WEF Nexus analysis and multi-sector data integration; iv) practical considerations for AKP implementation, including frequency of data updates, governance arrangements, role of the Regional Centres of Excellence, JRC technical support, analytical capabilities beyond data storage, timelines for data availability; and v) importance of continental data platforms for evidence-based decision-making.
- **Suggestions:**
  - strengthening the role of the AKP as a shared platform for ArcX partners.
  - clarifying governance arrangements and responsibilities for data management.
  - improving interoperability between existing data platforms.

- enhancing analytical capabilities to support decision-making rather than simple data consultation.
- promoting greater integration of multi-sector datasets.

### Session 3 – Science-Policy-Practice Nexus and Regional & Continental Integration

- **Focus:** i) EU and AU initiatives supporting transboundary water management across Africa; ii) opportunities to connect ArcX activities with continental and regional frameworks; iii) role of SADC protocols and Team Europe Initiatives; iv) need to build on existing initiatives rather than create new ones; v) strategic role of universities and science, technology and innovation within the African Union agenda; vi) value of existing datasets held by the African Union and Regional Economic Communities; and vii) importance of participating in AU ministerial events to strengthen the visibility of the Regional Centres of Excellence.
- **Suggestions:**
  - strengthening coordination between ArcX and continental initiatives.
  - increasing awareness of African Union programmes among ArcX partners.
  - making better use of continental datasets and regional policy processes.
  - strengthening the long-term sustainability and visibility of the Regional Centres of Excellence through closer engagement with African Union institutions.

### Session 4 – Science-Policy Communication

- **Focus:** i) challenges of translating scientific evidence into policy decisions; ii) shortcomings of existing communication products and policy briefs; iii) opportunities to engage policy-makers earlier in the research process; iv) importance of using existing intermediaries and communication channels; v) approaches for tailoring messages to different audiences; and vi) communication as a tool for creating investment opportunities.
- **Suggestions:**
  - engaging policy-makers from the earliest stages of research.
  - producing clearer, more targeted policy messages.
  - making better use of existing communication intermediaries.
  - developing cross-sector communication frameworks supporting evidence-based investment decisions.

### Session 6 – Innovation-Driven Investment Opportunities & Development

- **Focus:** i) private-sector partnerships based on research and innovation; ii) scalable business models for flood forecasting, drought monitoring, early warning systems, risk mapping and emergency communications; iii) role of incubators, start-ups and youth entrepreneurship; and iv) how science-based innovation can accelerate technology uptake.
- **Suggestions:**
  - strengthening collaboration between research institutions and the private sector.
  - promoting innovation ecosystems around the Regional Centres of Excellence.
  - supporting incubators and science-based start-ups.
  - scaling successful pilot projects across Southern Africa.

### Working Groups – Track A: Data Sharing and Science-to-Policy Nexus

- **Focus:** i) mechanisms for collaboration between governments, basin organisations, research institutions and private companies; ii) data sharing, technology deployment, financing and long-term maintenance of disaster risk systems.
- **Suggestions:**
  - establishing stronger multi-stakeholder partnerships for data sharing and technology deployment.
  - developing sustainable financing mechanisms for disaster risk prevention and preparedness systems.

#### Working Groups – Track B: Innovation and Leveraging the Youth Dividend

- **Focus:** i) how Regional Centres of Excellence can stimulate innovation across shared river basins; and ii) opportunities for piloting new technologies and supporting youth-led innovation.
- **Suggestions:**
  - strengthening innovation ecosystems involving universities, young entrepreneurs and the private sector.
  - promoting collaborative pilot projects to accelerate the uptake of new technologies.