



## Kangbéni Dimobe

2019 One Planet Laureate Candidate

A trained botanist, specializing in the conservation of natural resources, Kangbéni Dimobe is a teacher-researcher at the University of Dédougou in Burkina Faso. And, since July 2017, he has also worked with the Competence Centre at WASCAL (West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use) as associate researcher.

Originally from Burkina Faso and born in Lomé, Togo, Dimobe attended primary and secondary school in Lomé until his Baccalaureate. At first glance, Dimobe's academic career seems classic and linear. Armed with his Baccalaureate series D, he decided to pursue university studies in Natural Sciences, as a matter of course. As a teenager, he already liked to plant fruit trees (mango, banana, and others) in the fields and at home (kitchen garden). He thinks he has always had a green thumb. However "my father wanted me to become a Doctor or an Agronomist" he remembers. Despite his wish not to upset his father, he was certain from very early on: he wanted to become a well renowned scientist.

He thus obtained an undergraduate degree in Natural Sciences in 2006 at the University of Lomé and turned to botany.

Holding a Master's in Plant Biology (2007) from the University of Lomé, he discovered a taste for research and

logically enrolled to do his Diploma of Advanced Studies as part of the Interdisciplinary and Participatory Research on Interactions between Ecosystems, Climate and Societies in West Africa programme (RIPIECSA)

In 2010, with a DEA in Applied Plant Biology (2010) from the University of Lomé, he worked as a Research Assistant at the Laboratory of Botany and Plant Ecology of the same university for two years. There, he led lab work and tutorials in Systematic Botany, Forest Ecology, GIS and remote sensing. Furthermore, during this period, thanks to reading scientific articles, participation in international scientific congresses, in particular the IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations), "I had my lightbulb moment!" he says. Motivated by the opportunities presented by the speakers, and greatly impressed by the experts present, he decided to pursue his career in the fields of forestry, phytoecology, and biodiversity conservation in the context of climate change.

In June 2012, he obtained funding from the ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization) for a doctoral thesis.

At the same time, he obtained a full scholarship from WASCAL in October 2012 to carry out a doctoral thesis between

### Position

Teacher-Researcher

### Institution

University of Dédougou  
(Burkina Faso)

### Country

Burkina Faso

### Education

PhD, Botany and  
Phytoecology, University  
Ouaga 1 Professor Joseph  
Ki-Zerbo (Burkina Faso),  
2017

### Mentor

Dr. Ebagnerin Jérôme  
Tondoh, Lecturer,  
Agroecology, University of  
Nangui Abrogoua

### Research Area

Climate change and biology  
of conservation

the University of Rostock (Germany) and University Ouaga1 Professor Joseph Ki-Zerbo (Burkina Faso) under the supervision of Professor Adjima Thiombiano. This unique Doctoral thesis in Botany and Phytoecology was defended in 2017. He was subsequently recruited as a teacher-researcher at the University of Dédougou in February 2019.

His research work mainly focuses on conservation biology, forest estimation, tree biomass modelling, GIS & remote sensing, ecosystem functioning, forest ecology, conservation of natural resources, agroforestry, ethnobotany, biogeography and the biology of Climate Change. This research is carried out in several countries: in Benin and Ivory Coast (in a team on aspects related to ecosystem functioning), in Kenya ((i) Potential of agroforestry to improve the security of the means of existence in Africa and (ii) Agronomic innovations for a sustainable intensification of agriculture in Africa), in Nigeria (the impact of climate change on the geographic distribution of *Cola nitida* and *Garcinia kola*) and in Togo (ethnobotany, forestry and land use). He works with rural communities on a temporary basis (through "village workshops"). Note that the impact of climate change on the geographic distribution of species with high socio-economic values is proving to be an exciting subject for Dimobe.

Dimobe plans to climb the ranks, achieve the rank of full Professor, be a principal researcher in an international organization to do research on "Climate Smart Agriculture" with positive spinoffs for local communities. He aims to publish enough scientific articles and "Political Notes" to make the research results accessible to policy makers.

Dimobe aims to publish enough scientific articles and "Policy Briefs" to make research results accessible to policy makers. "We need to think outside the box. In this way, I intend to contribute to the training of young graduates, men and women," says Dimombe.

"We have to get off the beaten track. I thus intend to contribute to training young graduates, men and women, and to enhance the knowledge of local populations," he says.

Dimobe learned about the One Planet Scholarship through the WASCAL alumni network and also from colleagues in his laboratory in Burkina Faso. For him, the One Planet Fellowship initiative will allow him to achieve his career goals through leadership and project writing training sessions. In addition, this scholarship will positively influence his network of relationships without forgetting his institution through the students he will supervise. In terms of local communities, "I want to promote resilient conservation strategies for agroforestry species with high socio-economic values that will improve the living conditions of local populations through my REDD+ project," he explains.

According to Dimobe, one of the main difficulties facing a researcher in Africa is resources (human and financial) for the implementation of ideas.

**Kangbéni Dimobe** is one of the growing number of candidates selected to participate in the One Planet Fellowship. The One Planet Fellowship is a career development initiative that is building a robust pipeline of highly connected, inter-generational scientists equipped to use a gender lens to help Africa's smallholder farmers cope with climate change. The One Planet Fellowship is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the BNP Paribas Foundation, the European Union and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) and Agropolis Fondation are jointly implementing the Fellowship.

Do you have any further questions? Send an email to: [oneplanet.award@cgiar.org](mailto:oneplanet.award@cgiar.org)