



## Wend-kûni Dina Zougmoré

2019 One Planet Laureate Candidate

### Position

Doctoral Student

### Institution

University Pr Joseph

Ki-Zerbo

### Country

Burkina FasoBurkina Faso

### Education

MSc, Environmental  
Management and  
Sustainable Development,  
Aube Nouvelle University,  
2015

### Mentor

Dr. Koritimi Sanou, Teacher-  
Researcher, Norbert Zongo  
University, Koudougou

### Research Area

The governance of forest  
resources in the context of  
decentralization and climate  
change

Originally from Burkina Faso, Wend-kûni Dina Zougmoré obtained her Baccalaureate series D (science, 2009) in Ouagadougou, her hometown, after successful primary and secondary studies.

Her father (a telecommunications inspector) and her mother taught her three brothers and sister to love a job well done.

It's possible that Zougmoré could have never worked in the field of natural resource management. Indeed, after her baccalaureate, she naively decided not to do a course involving long university studies "for the wrong reasons," she laughingly admits.

She therefore opted for an economics course despite having a baccalaureate in biology and mathematics. She obtained a bachelor's degree in Economics (2012) from Saint Thomas Aquinas University in Ouagadougou.

During her university studies, a new phenomenon appealed to her and brought her back to natural sciences. Indeed, she was disgusted by the proliferation of mining industries whose impacts are harmful for the environment and local populations.

This was the reason she changed her mind. Given that she could change course to focus on environmental studies even though she held a degree in economics, she strongly considered this change in direction.

Finally, she enrolled in a Masters in Environmental Management and Sustainable Development at Aube Nouvelle University. This training focused on the development of environmental and social impact studies as well as environmental audits.

This alternative pathway was reinforced with a 2nd year master's internship at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). This internship was decisive, because it was revealing.

During field missions, she was captivated by the environmental and social dimension of the projects. She was particularly interested in exchanges with the various actors on project sites as well as in the conservation of forest resources through governance.

Her master's thesis focused on forest governance at the local level. This time, she was sure. She now wanted to devote herself entirely to the environment.

But beforehand, she decided to spend a year in Accra in Ghana and take language lessons to perfect her English.

After completing her master's degree, Miss Zougmoré decided to write a thesis.

A student in her second year of thesis at the Laboratory of Studies and Research on Environments and Territories (LERMIT - Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherches sur les Milieux et Territoires) at the Doctoral School of the University Professor Joseph Ki-Zerbo in Ouagadougou, her research theme focuses on the issues and limits of the governance of forest resources in Burkina Faso based on the case of the PONASI ecological complex in the Centre-South of the country.

This research is part of conservation and uses several disciplines (Sociology, Environment, Geographic Information Systems, Environmental Law etc.). She mainly works with rural communities, namely locals, farmers, foresters and non-timber forest product (NTFPs) producers, local elected representatives, agents of decentralized state services.

The study has several objectives, one of which is to analyse the dynamics of forest resources and the factors of degradation associated with them.

The practice of agricultural activity is essential for rural populations and at the same time it represents one of the main factors of deforestation in Burkina Faso.

This led her to take an interest in the interactions between agriculture and the conservation of forest resources.

Zougmoré's research focuses on the link between agriculture and forest conservation. She is exploring how best to reconcile sustainable agriculture and long-term forest conservation resources in the context of climate change and decentralization.

She wonders about the best way to reconcile sustainable agriculture and conservation of forest resources in the long term in the context of climate change and decentralization.

In the long term, Zougmoré aspires to work in an international research centre.

She discovered the One Planet fellowship by chance during internet research. In her opinion, the One Planet Fellowship program plays a crucial role because it opens doors, especially to AWARD partners, promotes collaboration, highlights certain opportunities.

She intends to capitalize on the benefits of the One Planet fellowship, in particular putting a platform of researchers in touch. Access to funding for research in Africa remains an obstacle to the continent's scientific development. She wishes to seize this opportunity to develop collaboration between her institution and AWARD and/or AWARD partners.

**Wend-kûni Dina Zougmoré** 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)

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