SASSCAL

Southern African
Science Service Centre for
Climate Change and
Adaptive Land Management

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With funding from the:

Federal Ministry
of Research, Technology
and Space

SOUTHERN AFRICAN SCIENCE SERVICE CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTIVE LAND MANAGEMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Promoting Science for Sustainable Development

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFSLM	Agriculture, Food Security and Land Management
AWS	Automatic Weather Stations
BMFTR	Germany's Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space
CoE	Centre of Excellence
EO	Earth Observation
EU	European Union
GMES	Global Monitoring for Environment and Security
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
JCOI	Joint Communique of Intent
LIMCOM	Limpopo Watercourse Commission
NUST	Namibia University of Science and Technology
OKACOM	Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission
SASSCAL	Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management
SGSP	SASSCAL Graduate Studies Programme
TIPPECC	Tipping Points Explained by Climate Change
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UNAM	University of Namibia
WARMA	Water Resources Management Authority (Zambia)
WASCAL	West African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management
WeMAST	Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Service for Transboundary Basins in Southern Africa
WeNET	SASSCAL Weather Network Project
Y4H2	Youth for Green Hydrogen
Y4GHS	Youth for Green Hydrogen Scholarships

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2025 was an important period for SASSCAL, marked by good progress in scientific research, governance, and resource mobilisation. Significant developments were recorded across the organisation's core areas of work, including research, capacity development, strategic projects, and institutional governance. These achievements contributed to strengthening SASSCAL's role in supporting climate change research and sustainable development efforts across the region.

One of the institutional milestones during the year was the appointment of the new Executive Director, Prof. Nelago Indongo. Her appointment marked a leadership transition and strengthened SASSCAL's engagement with member states, development partners, and the broader scientific community.

The Extraordinary Council of Ministers Meeting was held in September 2025 to reinforce high-level political support for SASSCAL's regional mandate. The Government of Zambia signed the SASSCAL Treaty Ratification Instrument on 4 March 2025, bringing SASSCAL one step closer to becoming an international organisation. During 2025, the Governing Board met regularly to provide strategic oversight and guidance to SASSCAL. The Executive Committee convened as required to address operational matters, while the Audit and Risk Committee and the Human Resources Committee held several meetings to support effective governance, risk management, and human resource oversight. Across all Governing Board meetings, a total of 95 resolutions were adopted

In research, the SASSCAL 2.0 portfolio of 13 flagship projects sustained strong implementation momentum, with most projects achieving approximately 85% completion. Through the SASSCAL 2.0 Research Programme, students were supported across the five member states. By the end of 2025, more than 47 students had successfully completed their studies, while the remaining students had progressed to advanced stages of their academic programmes.

Four PhD graduates graduated from the SASSCAL Graduate Studies Programme on Integrated Water Resources Management, while nine Master's graduates and five TVET completions were recorded under the Youth for Green Hydrogen Scholarship Programme. Another academic milestone was the approval of the PhD curriculum in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) by the NUST Senate, advancing the programme towards national accreditation.

The proposal for establishing the SGSP in Agriculture, Food Security and Sustainable Land Management (AFSLM), together with the construction of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Angola, was approved. Subsequently, agreements were signed between SASSCAL and the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) through DLR Project Management Agency (DLR-PT).

In the green hydrogen sector, the Cleanergy Green Hydrogen Plant and Refuelling Station was successfully commissioned and officially inaugurated in September 2025, while the Daures Green Hydrogen Village reached an overall implementation rate of 85%.

Under Resource Mobilisation, SASSCAL secured €12.3 million in new funding commitments, together with €608,850 in administrative fees from renewable energy, capacity development, and research infrastructure projects. Globally, SASSCAL strengthened its international profile through participation in 22 strategic engagements. These included executive-level missions to all five member states following the appointment of the new Executive Director, the hosting of several international and regional conferences, participation in continental and regional forums, and the handover of Automatic Weather Stations in Botswana, Namibia, and Zambia.

The organisation's products and services, spanning climate monitoring, decision-support tools, and environmental data platforms, continued to grow in utilisation and policy relevance.

ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE

The Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) is a joint initiative of the governments of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia with financial support from Germany as the principal funding partner. Established to address climate change and related environmental challenges, SASSCAL is a regional science-based organisation that generates knowledge, builds capacity, and provides scientific information to support decision-making across Southern Africa.



VISION

To be a leading regional centre in integrated climate and adaptive land management science services for an improved quality of life in southern Africa.



MISSION

To strengthen the regional capacity to generate and use scientific knowledge products and services for decision making on climate change and adaptive land management through research management, human capital development and service brokerage.

THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

SASSCAL's work is organised around five Thematic Research Areas: Food Security, Water Security, Climate Services, Forestry and Woodlands, and Biodiversity. These thematic areas form the foundation of the SASSCAL research programmes and are aligned with the Centres of Excellence in the SASSCAL member countries.

In 2025, the Namibia University of Science and Technology implemented the SASSCAL Graduate Studies Programme (SGSP) in Integrated Water Resources Management. In October 2025, a new SGSP in Food Security, Agriculture and Land Management in Angola was approved for implementation in 2026. Together, these centres support research, innovation, capacity development, and evidence-based solutions to address climate and environmental challenges across the SASSCAL member countries.

SASSCAL maintains National Nodes in Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia, with a Regional Secretariat hosted in Windhoek, Namibia.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING BOARD



MR. TEOFILUS NGHITILA
CHAIRPERSON: GOVERNING BOARD

It is my privilege to present the SASSCAL Annual Report for 2025, a year that has, in many respects, defined the organisation's trajectory for the decade ahead. As Chair of the Governing Board, I have had the honour to take on board an organisation that has evolved with increasing purpose, discipline, and ambition.

Before addressing other matters, I am pleased to report that the Government of Zambia signed the SASSCAL Treaty Ratification Instrument on 4 March 2025. This marks a significant milestone and brings SASSCAL one step closer to attaining full status as an international organisation.

The Governing Board convened ten meetings during 2025, adopting 95 resolutions that collectively advanced SASSCAL's institutional governance, programme implementation, and strategic direction. These figures reflect not only the Board's active engagement but also the complexity and ambition of the work that SASSCAL is undertaking on behalf of its member states. I am pleased to report that the vast majority of resolutions were implemented and closed off, reflecting a culture of accountability that the Board has consistently sought to cultivate.

A governance milestone of particular significance was the appointment of Professor Nelago Indongo as Executive Director. This was the culmination of a rigorous, transparent recruitment process overseen by the Board's dedicated Recruitment Task Team, and I have every confidence that Professor Indongo's leadership will strengthen SASSCAL's institutional standing and advance its strategic ambitions.

The convening of the Extraordinary Council of Ministers Meeting in September 2025 was a powerful reaffirmation of high-level political support for SASSCAL. Ministerial engagement is critical to SASSCAL's long-term sustainability, and I am gratified that member states continue to demonstrate their commitment to the organisation's regional mandate.

Looking ahead, the Board remains firmly focused on ensuring that SASSCAL transitions into its next strategic phase, SASSCAL 3.0 with a robust governance framework, a diversified funding base, and a deepened scientific footprint. The organisation has laid strong foundations, and the Board is committed to ensuring that the structures, systems, and leadership are in place to build upon them. Last but not least, I extend my sincere gratitude to the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, and to the governments of our member states for their continued confidence in and investments in SASSCAL's mission. I also wish to thank the Executive Director and all SASSCAL staff, as well as our research and development partners, for their dedication and contributions towards implementing the SASSCAL mandate.



Mr. Teofilus Nghitila
Chairperson
SASSCAL Governing Board

MESSAGE FROM GERMANY'S FEDERAL MINISTRY OF RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE (BMFTR)



DR. CHRISTIAN ALECKE
GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER: GERMANY

Germany's partnership with the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management reflects a long-standing commitment to science-based cooperation and sustainable development. SASSCAL stands as one of the most tangible expressions of the German-African science partnership, an institution born of a shared conviction that climate change can only be addressed through investment in research, knowledge, and people.

In 2025, we have observed SASSCAL's continued growth with great pride. The completion of the SASSCAL 2.0 research programme represents years of sustained effort by hundreds of researchers, students, and institutional partners across five countries. The scientific outputs from climate projections and hydrological services to biodiversity assessments and agricultural innovations exemplify exactly the kind of applied research that our partnership was designed to produce.

The new funding agreements concluded in 2025, totalling over €9.8 million from BMFTR, demonstrate the Federal Ministry's continued confidence in SASSCAL's capacity to deliver. The launch of the Angola Graduate School Programme and the Centre of Excellence signal our determination to expand SASSCAL's footprint and embed scientific excellence across the region.

We congratulate SASSCAL on the appointment of its new Executive Director and look forward to a productive partnership as the organisation charts its course into SASSCAL 3.0. The challenges of climate change demand ambition, and SASSCAL has consistently demonstrated the ambition required to meet them.

The BMFTR calls on all member states to fully and equally honour their contributions to ensure the continued sustainability of SASSCAL.

Dr. Christian Alecke
Governing Board Member
Germany

REMARKS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PROF. NELAGO INDONGO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Assuming the role of Executive Director of SASSCAL in June 2025 was both an honour and a responsibility I embraced with deep commitment. The organisation I inherited had already established remarkable foundations: a robust research portfolio, a growing network of partnerships, and a workforce dedicated to advancing science in service of Southern Africa's most pressing environmental challenges. My task has been to build upon these foundations while shaping a strategic vision that positions SASSCAL for its next phase of growth.

In the months following my appointment, I undertook engagements across all five SASSCAL member states Zambia, Angola, Botswana, South Africa, and Namibia, to formally introduce the new executive leadership, consult with national stakeholders, and communicate my priorities for the organisation. These engagements underscored the trust that member state governments place in SASSCAL and reinforced the organisation's obligation to deliver measurable value at the national and regional levels. These engagements formed the basis of SASSCAL 3.0 Strategy.

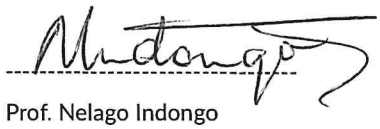
Scientifically, 2025 has been a year of considerable achievement. The SASSCAL 2.0 portfolio maintained high implementation rates, producing climate-relevant outputs that are finding their way into national planning processes and policy frameworks. The First Cohort Symposium of the SGSP-IWRM, held in Windhoek in November, was a proud moment, showcasing the research outputs of our doctoral graduates to water sector stakeholders across the region. The approval of the IWRM PhD curriculum by the NUST Senate is a landmark development, embedding the programme within Namibia's higher education system and ensuring its long-term sustainability.

Another key highlight during the year was the successful hosting of the SASSCAL 2.0 Science Conference in Angola and SASSCAL's participation at the GMES & Africa Forum in Cairo, Egypt, where the organisation delivered a presentation. The Forum marked the final event of the programme's implementation phase.

Our green hydrogen work has attracted global attention. The commissioning of the Cleanergy Plant in September 2025 was a significant milestone, and we are now actively advancing the extension phase and the UNAM RealTest Project. Africa's green hydrogen opportunity is substantial, and SASSCAL is uniquely positioned to provide the scientific, monitoring, and coordination infrastructure that the sector requires.

Resource mobilisation has been exceptional, and I am proud of the team's efforts in securing over €12 million in new commitments during the second half of 2025. As we develop SASSCAL 3.0, our ambition is clear: to deepen our scientific impact, expand our membership, achieve direct access accreditation with key funders, and deliver solutions that make a measurable difference in the lives of communities across Southern Africa.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Governing Board for its guidance, to our partner governments for their support, to Germany's Federal Ministry of Research Technology and Space for its enduring partnership, and to every SASSCAL staff member for their dedication and professionalism.



Prof. Nelago Indongo
Executive Director
SASSCAL

GOVERNANCE

The organisation is governed by a Council of Ministers as its supreme authority, a Governing Board providing strategic oversight, and Board Committees responsible for specialised governance functions.

Germany's Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) is the main funding partner of SASSCAL, in collaboration with the Governments of the SASSCAL member countries through their respective line ministries. These include the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation in Angola, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in Botswana, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform in Namibia, the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation in South Africa, and the Ministry of Technology and Science in Zambia.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS





Hon. Chipoka Mulenga, MP, Zambia's Acting Minister of Technology and Science, and Ms. Alexandria Angala, Acting Vice-Chairperson of the SASSCAL Governing Board, at the signing of the SASSCAL Treaty Ratification Instrument

"SASSCAL Governing Board Pays Courtesy Visit to the SASSCAL Council Chairperson."

The Government of Zambia signed the SASSCAL Treaty Ratification Instrument on 4 March 2025, bringing SASSCAL one step closer to becoming an international organisation. The instrument was signed by the Acting Minister of Technology and Science, Hon. Chipoka Mulenga, MP, following Zambia's ratification of the SASSCAL Treaty through Parliament in 2024 under the leadership of H.E. President Hakainde Hichilema.

In September 2025, an Extraordinary Council of Ministers Meeting was convened resulting in a significant engagement that provided ministers with a comprehensive overview of SASSCAL's mandate, achievements, and strategic priorities. This meeting reinforced high-level political commitment and created an important platform for intergovernmental dialogue on regional science and climate cooperation.

Country	Ministry / Department Represented	Role
Angola	Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation	Member
Botswana	Ministry of Environment and Tourism	Chairperson
Namibia	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform	Vice Chairperson
South Africa	Department of Science, Technology and Innovation	Member
Zambia	Ministry of Technology and Science	Member
Germany	Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)	Member (Funder)

GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board continued to provide active oversight of SASSCAL's strategic, operational, and institutional priorities through ten meetings held during 2025, including both ordinary and extraordinary sessions. During these meetings, the Board adopted 95 resolutions, demonstrating its strong commitment to programme implementation, governance improvement, financial management, partnership development, and preparations for the 4th Council of Ministers Meeting.

Implementation of Board resolutions was consistently high, contributing to strengthened institutional accountability and improved governance systems. Key resolutions addressed institutional leadership transitions, external audit arrangements, the SASSCAL 2.0 Research Conference, and the approval of the SASSCAL Graduate Studies Programme and Centre of Excellence in Angola. A central governance milestone was the successful conclusion of the Executive Director recruitment process, culminating in the appointment of Prof. Nelago Indongo. This is a development that positions SASSCAL for strengthened leadership and accelerated strategic delivery.

Board Members from 01 January – December 2025 and Attendance at all Meetings										
Board Member	**3rd OBM**	**6th EOBM**	**7th EOBM**	**8th EOBM**	**9th EOBM**	**10th EOBM**	**11th EOBM**	**12th EOBM**	**13th OBM**	**14th EOBM**
Prof Gabriel Miguel	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Dr Elijah T Ngurare	√	Resigned after 6th EOBM								
Dr Christian Alecke						√	√	√	√	
Mr Balisi Gopolang	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr John Chongo	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Ms Mmampei Chaba	x	x	x	x	x	√	x	x	x	x
Ms Alexandria Angala	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Dr Verena Hebbecker	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Mr Leluma Matooane							√	√		
Prof Virginia Quartim						√	√	√		
Dr Joel Botai	√									
Dr Budzanani Tacheba	√	√								
Prof Nelago Indongo						√	√	√	√	√

SASSCAL Governing Board Members and Attendance at Meetings – 2025

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The SASSCAL Governing Board is comprised of six members representing the five Member States and the funding country

2025 / 2026 BOARD MEMBERS



Prof. Gabriel Luis Miguel
Governing Board Member and Chairperson
Angola



Dr. Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare
Governing Board Member and Vice-chairperson
Namibia



Mr. Balisi Gopolang
Governing Board Member
Botswana



Dr. Christian Alecke
Governing Board Member
Germany



Mr. John Lukonde Chongo
Alternate Governing Board Member
Zambia



Ms. Mmampei Chaba
Governing Board Member
South Africa



Ms. Alexandria Angala
Interim Governing Board Member – Vice Chairperson
Namibia



Mr. Teofilus Nghitila
Governing Board Member and Chairperson
Namibia



Prof. Patricia Mogomotsi
Governing Board Member & Vice-Chairperson
Botswana



Dr. Antonio Alcochete
Governing Board Member
Angola



Dr. Christian Alecke
Governing Board Member
Germany



Dr. Larry Mweetwa
Governing Board Member
Zambia



Prof. Nelago Indongo
Executive Director

BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board also discharges its responsibilities through specialised committees. The Executive Committee convened seven times during the year to address governance coordination, programme oversight, and leadership transition management. The Audit and Risk Committee met once and provided oversight of audit and risk management matters, including the recommendation for the appointment of HBL Auditors to review financial records from 2021 to 2025. The Human Resources Committee convened seven times to support Board deliberations on organisational effectiveness and staff management.

Committee	Meetings Held	Attendance
Executive Committee	7	All Members
Audit and Risk Committee	1	All Members
Human Resources Committee	7	All Members

SAC COMMITTEE

During the reporting period, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) undertook a range of activities aimed at strengthening SASSCAL's scientific agenda and strategic direction. The SAC Chair represented the committee at the 3rd Governing Board meeting and contributed to the development of the SASSCAL 3.0 Strategy. The committee also engaged with the Regional Secretariat during the situational assessment process to identify emerging research themes relevant to SASSCAL and explore opportunities for collaborative proposal development. In addition, SAC members actively participated in thematic country workshops and other scientific platforms, including the SASSCAL 2.0 Final Conference in Angola.



Dr. Joel Botai
South Africa



Prof. Domingos Silva Neto
Angola



Prof. Hermann Lotze Campen
Germany



Dr. Patrick Chikoti
Zambia



Prof. Jane Kwenye
Zambia



Prof. Tina Beuchelt
Germany



Mr. Swartz Bertram
Namibia



Dr. Johannes Sirunda
Namibia



Dr. Casper Bonyongo
Botswana

SASSCAL EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

The Executive Management consists of the Executive Director, Prof. Nelago Indongo, the Director of Science, Technology and Capacity Development, Dr. Budzanani Tacheba and the Director of Finance and Administration, Mr. Clive Mulumba. This team is responsible for providing overall leadership, strategic direction, and executive decision-making for the organisation. They are supported by the broader SASSCAL organisational structure, as illustrated below.



Prof. Nelago Indongo
Executive Director

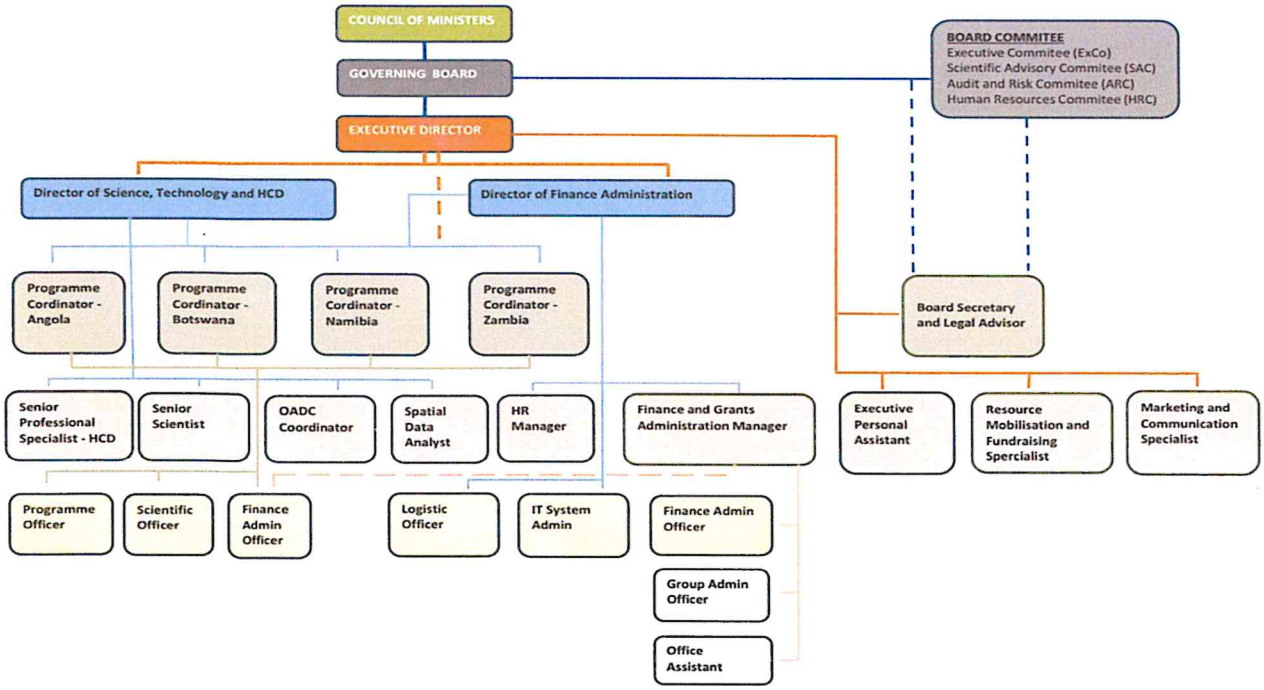


Dr. Budzanani Tacheba
Director: Science, Technology and Capacity Development



Mr. Clive Mulumba
Director: Finance and Administration

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

In 2025, SASSCAL implemented its research portfolio through the SASSCAL Research Programme 2.0, the GMES & Africa WeMAST II project, and the Joint Communiqué of Intent (JCoI) partnership on Green Hydrogen. These initiatives supported both research and capacity development activities across the region. In addition, SASSCAL's National Nodes facilitated and coordinated research activities that addressed national priorities and strengthened scientific collaboration among member states.

SASSCAL 2.0 RESEARCH PORTFOLIO







Pictures under the SASSCAL 2.0 Beekeeping Project

In 2025, the SASSCAL 2.0 Research Programme reached an advanced stage of implementation, achieving approximately 85% completion across its 13 flagship projects and 52 sub-projects implemented in Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia. Several flagship projects, including TIP-PECC, WIRE, FoSReCs, FRAME, SUSTAIN, ELNAC, BEEKEEPING and Climate Smart Crops, delivered significant scientific outputs and innovations in climate modelling, water resource management, food systems resilience, climate-smart agriculture, governance systems and biodiversity conservation.

Human capacity development continued to be a key pillar of the programme. SASSCAL 2.0 supported 104 students at BSc, MSc/MPhil, PhD and postdoctoral levels, contributing to the development of regional expertise in climate science, natural resource management, and sustainable development. By the end of 2025, more than 47 students had successfully completed their studies, including all supported BSc candidates, while the remaining students progressed to advanced stages of their academic programmes. In addition, 13 short courses and several technical training programmes were delivered to researchers, extension officers, government officials and community stakeholders, strengthening institutional and regional capacities.

The programme also generated a diverse portfolio of innovative products and services. These included high-resolution (8 km) downscaled climate projections, the SASSCAL Climate Services Gateway and enhancements to the Open Access Data Centre (OADC), improving access to climate information and decision-support tools.

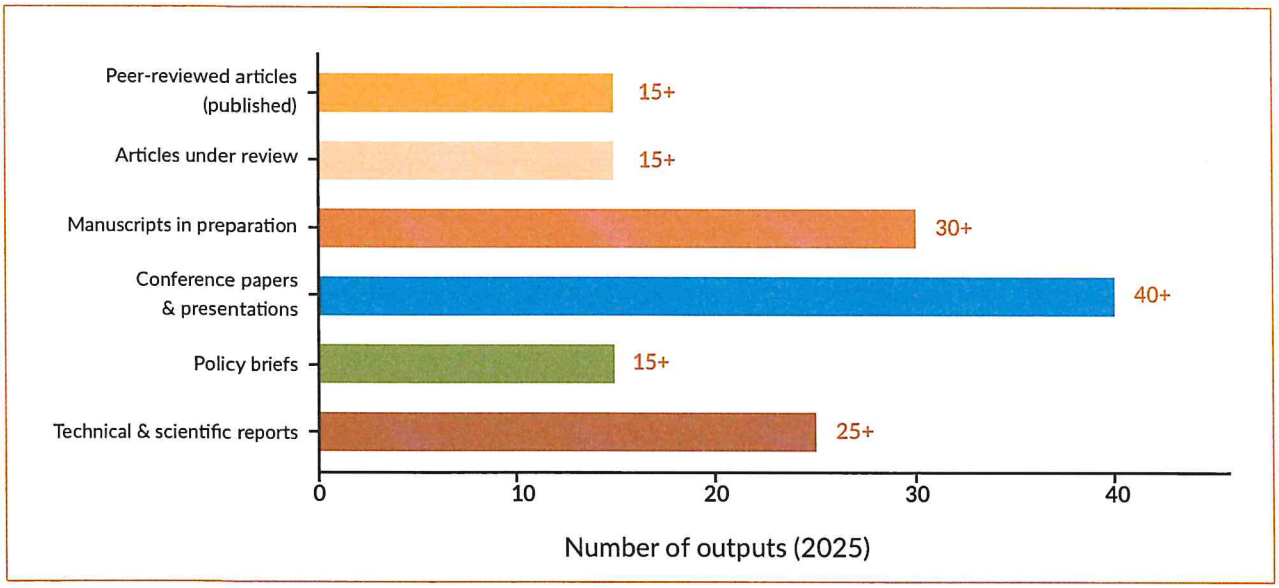
Other innovations included honey-based products, bio-inoculants, climate-resilient crops, hydrological models, smart beehives, mini weather stations, infiltration measurement systems and drone-based monitoring technologies. Collectively, these outputs strengthen the science–policy–practice interface and provide scalable solutions for climate resilience, sustainable land management, biodiversity conservation and food and water security across Southern Africa.

NATIONAL NODE RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Each National Node made substantive contributions to research coordination and output generation. The Angola Node progressed the SASSCAL 2.0 Final Conference preparations and finalised a Crop Calendar for Angola integrating climate and agro-climatic data. The Angola Node has also been working consistently to strengthen the policy framework needed to guide strategic investments for climate change adaptation and mitigation. One of the most important achievements is the development of the National Climate Change Strategy 2018–2030 (ENAC). However, these efforts have been challenged by the limited availability of accurate climate change data and information. To address this gap, SASSCAL, through the Angola Node, received USD 60,000 to compile and produce an inventory of Angola's forest resources, providing important data to support climate and environmental planning.

The Botswana Node undertook systematic project monitoring and contributed to transboundary water governance engagements with OKACOM and LIMCOM. The Namibia Node coordinated the submission of policy briefs from multiple projects, while the Zambia Node led the development of policy briefs on sustainable hydropower and beekeeping value chains and advanced the operationalisation of the SASSCAL-WARMA Memorandum of Understanding.

Publication outputs across the portfolio constituted more than 15 peer-reviewed journal articles published, with an additional 15 under review and over 30 manuscripts in preparation. More than 40 conference papers and presentations were delivered, and 15 policy briefs alongside 25 technical reports were produced.



SASSCAL 2.0 Research Publication Pipeline (2025)

Through funding from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, SASSCAL worked with FAO to develop a forest resources inventory. This initiative aimed to strengthen efforts to monitor and report on extreme climate events and land-use changes, with a particular focus on forest resources.

THE GLOBAL MONITORING FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY (GMES) AND AFRICA, WETLANDS MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT SERVICE FOR TRANSBOUNDARY BASINS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (WEMAST II)



Participants at the GMES & Africa Continental Forum in Cairo in December 2025

The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and Africa programme's WeMAST initiative continued to generate significant outputs in wetland monitoring, transboundary water management, and Earth Observation (EO) capacity during 2025. WeMAST serves a critical regional function, providing satellite-based tools and geospatial intelligence to decision-makers managing the Cuvelai, Okavango, Limpopo, and Zambezi river basins. During the year, SASSCAL showcased the WeMAST geoportal at the International Workshop on the Cubango-Okavango River Basin in Maun, Botswana, and at Ramsar COP15 in Victoria Falls, receiving positive recognition from international stakeholders as a practical tool for transboundary basin management and wetland governance. A three-day WeMAST Training Workshop was conducted in September 2025, building capacity across four major river basins.

Scientific outputs from the WeMAST partnership grew substantially, with publications from the University of Zambia, Midlands State University, and the University of Botswana covering soil moisture dynamics, wetland inundation modelling, erosion assessment, and ecosystem service valuation.

In December 2025, SASSCAL participated in and delivered a presentation at the GMES & Africa Forum held in Cairo, Egypt. The WeMAST consortium presented its products and services to a continental audience of Earth Observation stakeholders, policymakers, and private sector representatives.

The forum marked the second and final event of the programme's implementation phase, during which SASSCAL and its consortium partners played a key role in developing wetland monitoring tools based on Earth observation data. The programme also established a geoportal and provided training to stakeholders across participating member states.

Through a series of tailored short courses, the initiative successfully built the capacity of approximately 300 practitioners working in the water resources and land management sectors within the Cuvelai, Okavango, Limpopo, and Zambezi river basins. These efforts have strengthened the use of geospatial information and Earth observation technologies for sustainable environmental management and decision-making across the region.

GREEN HYDROGEN PROJECT





Site of the Cleanergy Green Hydrogen Production Plant and Refuelling Station, officially inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Namibia

SASSCAL's mandate under the Joint Communiqué of Intent (JCOI) between the German and Namibian governments positions the organisation as the principal monitoring and coordination body for green hydrogen pilot projects in Namibia. These projects are internationally significant, representing early-mover investments in Africa's green hydrogen sector and demonstrating the continent's potential to contribute to global decarbonisation.

Cleanergy Green Hydrogen Plant and Refuelling Station

The most significant milestone of 2025 was the completion and official inauguration of the Cleanergy Green Hydrogen Plant and Refuelling Station in Walvis Bay on 18 September 2025. This facility, a fully commissioned, operational green hydrogen production and refuelling facility, represents a landmark in Namibia's clean energy transition and a tangible demonstration of the JCOI's transformative potential. A post-commissioning technical exercise was conducted immediately thereafter, building operational expertise among SASSCAL and Cleanergy staff.

An extension to the Cleanergy project was approved and contracted in May 2025, valued at €2,057,000, covering a mobile hydrogen refueller, dual-fuel truck conversions, hydrogen-powered transport, and laboratory upgrades, extending the project's impact through to June 2026.

Daures Green Hydrogen Village (DGHV)





Picture: DGHV Reverse Osmosis system and Water tower system

The Daures Green Hydrogen Village, while experiencing delays in commissioning, reached 85% overall implementation. Installation of the Hydrogen Electrolyser and Ammonia Generation assets commenced in October 2025 and was completed by the end of the reporting period. Research under the DGHV project was formally concluded with the Namibia-Germany Green Hydrogen R&D Conference, at which UNAM postgraduate students presented their findings to an audience of regional and international stakeholders.

The DGHV aims to establish a self-sustaining energy ecosystem, producing green hydrogen and green ammonia, the production of agricultural products, a training facility in the hydrogen and agricultural space and the enablement of research activities related to green hydrogen and green ammonia industries.

It is situated in the Daures Constituency in the Erongo Region in the central Namibia valley.

Unam Real Test



Signing of MoU's with UNAM for RealTest and with Cleanergy Project Extension

The UNAM RealTest Project was approved for funding of €2,500,000 and contracted in August 2025, with a three-year implementation horizon focused on green hydrogen research, safety, and specialist skills development, including a supplementary €350,000 for specialist welding engineering capacity.

This milestone was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SASSCAL and the University of Namibia.

The project was designed to support the safe development and large-scale adoption of advanced Green Hydrogen Technologies (GH2T) in Namibia through targeted research, testing, and capacity development. It aims to build confidence in green hydrogen technologies by strengthening knowledge on safety, reliability, and sustainability, while positioning Namibia as a leader in green hydrogen research and innovation. The project also creates opportunities for skills development, employment, and scientific advancement in the emerging green hydrogen sector. Furthermore, it addresses the strategic need to establish a strong national research base that can support local innovation, enable the development of new technologies, and facilitate their application through pilot projects and future large-scale investments.

Green Hydrogen Events and Initiatives



Delegates attending the ICERA 2025 Conference

SASSCAL successfully coordinated the hosting of the ICERA Conference from 21–25 October 2025 in Windhoek, Namibia, which attracted more than 80 local and international participants. The Renewable Energy and Green Hydrogen Unit played an active role in both the Organising and Scientific Committees. The Unit also coordinated site visits to green hydrogen pilot projects and presented a conference paper abstract, with the full paper submitted for publication in the ICERA 2025 proceedings.

In addition, SASSCAL partnered with the organisers of the Global African Hydrogen Summit, held from 9–11 September 2025. During the summit, SASSCAL delivered an official presentation and coordinated the participation of beneficiaries of the Youth for Green Hydrogen Scholarship Programme. More than 80 scholarship recipients attended the event, providing them with valuable opportunities for learning, networking, and engagement with industry stakeholders.

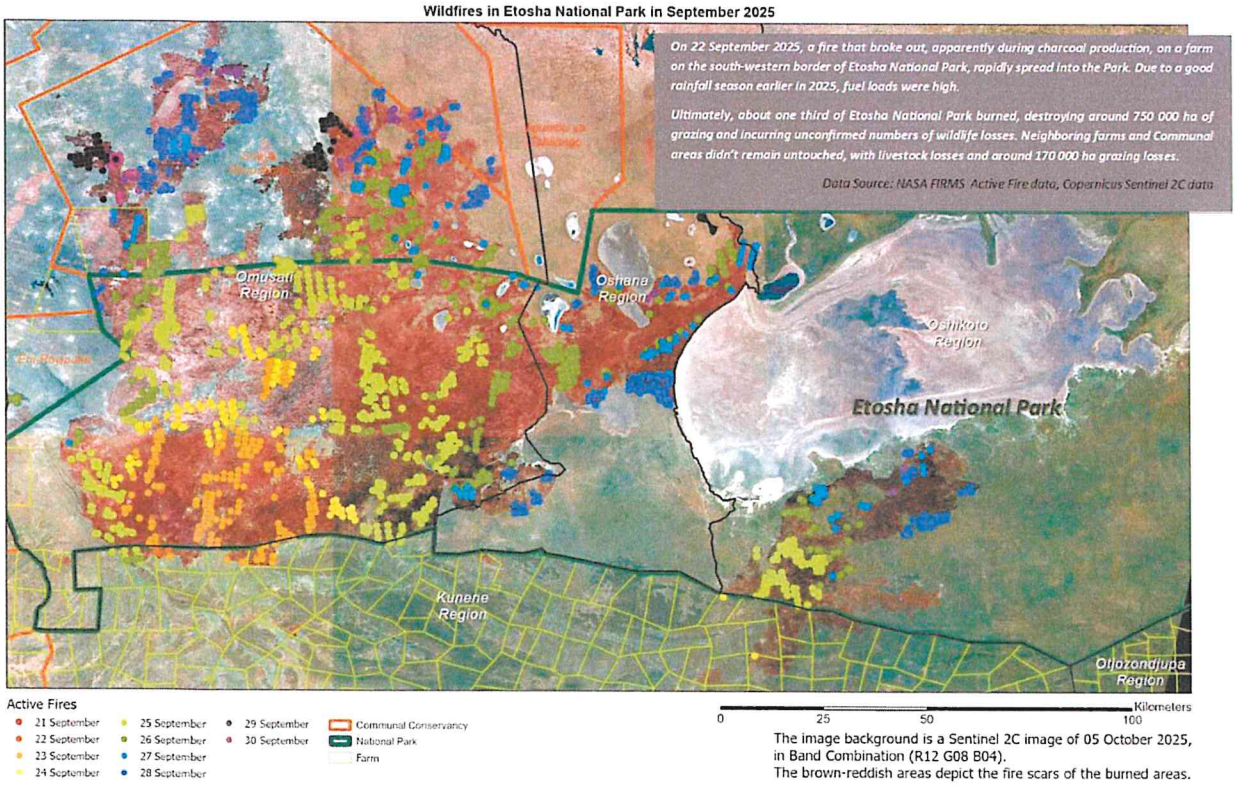
SASSCAL also achieved an important milestone in research and innovation funding by submitting a proposal entitled "Production of Renewable Ammonia for Global Markets in Africa: Fueling Europe's Decarbonization Ambitions" to the Long-Term Joint EU–AU Research and Innovation Partnership on Sustainable Energy (LEAP-SE 2025 Call). The proposal, valued at approximately €173,250, was submitted on 11 September 2025 and was successfully approved in December 2025.

SERVICES AND PRODUCTS

SASSCAL's portfolio of operational services and data products continued to expand in 2025, translating scientific research into applied tools that serve governments, planners, researchers, and disaster management authorities across the region. The organisation's products span climate monitoring, agricultural intelligence, environmental data access, and decision-support systems.

SASSCAL WEATHERNET

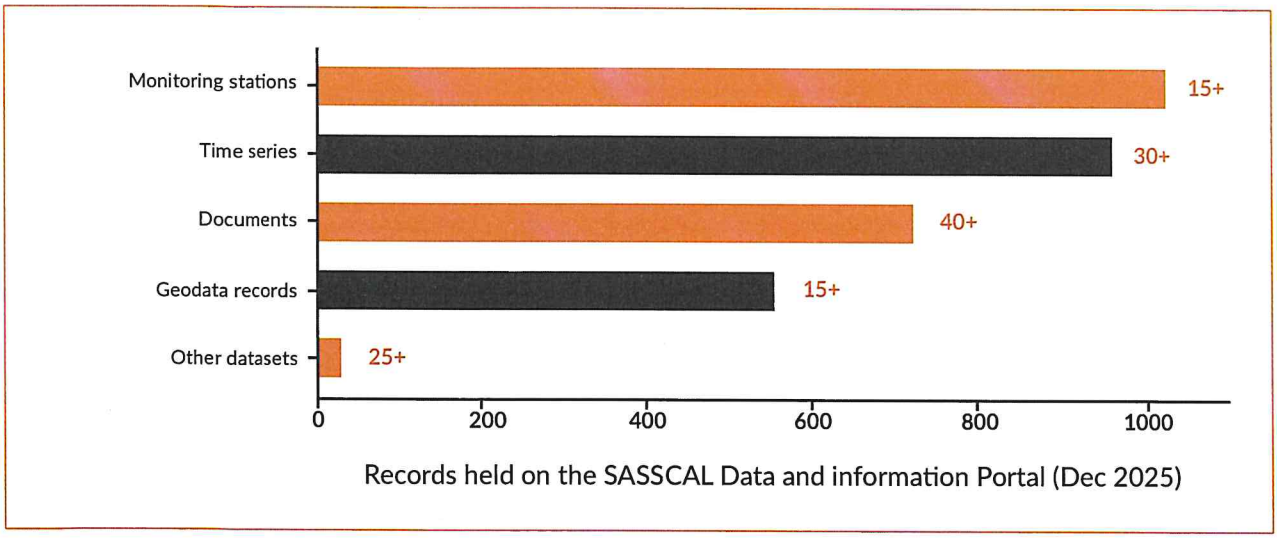
The SASSCAL WeatherNet operated 90 Automated Weather Stations (AWS) during the reporting period, characterised by improved system stability through sustained maintenance programmes. Data utilisation remained robust, with 77.95 MB of meteorological data downloaded through 83 individual requests by a registered user base of 260. WeatherNet continues to serve as a critical backbone for regional climate monitoring, disaster risk reduction, and hydrometeorological research.



SASSCAL Info Map represents the development and the ultimate fire scar of the devastating wildfires that destroyed around one third of Namibia's Etosha National Park grazing in September 2025.

DATA AND INFORMATION PORTAL

The SASSCAL Data and Information Portal closed 2025 with 411 registered users and a holdings inventory of over 3,000 resources, including 1,010 monitoring stations, 942 time series, 425 geodata records, 656 documents, and 30 additional datasets. Consistent with SASSCAL's open data policy, the majority of resources are accessible without registration, meaning actual utilisation extends significantly beyond the registered user base.



SASSCAL Data and Information Portal – Resource Holdings (December 2025)

THEMATIC DATA PRODUCTS

A suite of high-impact thematic maps and analytical products was produced and disseminated during the year, including fire regime analyses for Angola, Botswana, Namibia, and Zambia; drought history assessments covering four decades; seasonal forecast assimilations; and reference evapotranspiration maps. These products were presented at national and international forums, including the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction commemoration in Namibia, where SASSCAL demonstrated the direct relevance of its data tools to disaster preparedness and risk management.

A notable new product was the extreme rainfall event analysis for Botswana following severe flooding in February 2025, as well as the development of fire mapping for Etosha National Park following wildfires that burned approximately 750,000 hectares in September 2025.

SASSCAL AGRI-WATCH

During the year 2025, SASSCAL pursued significant innovation driven products, these included the initiation of the SASSCAL Agri-Watch, a joint geoportal developed in partnership with Digital Earth Africa, providing interactive maps, graphs, and analytical tools for crop and rangeland monitoring. A formal collaboration agreement was established in September 2025, and a proof-of-concept prototype incorporating NDVI anomaly maps and rainfall season visualisation tools was actively advanced by year-end. Agri-Watch represents a major step toward evidence-based agricultural decision support for SASSCAL member states.

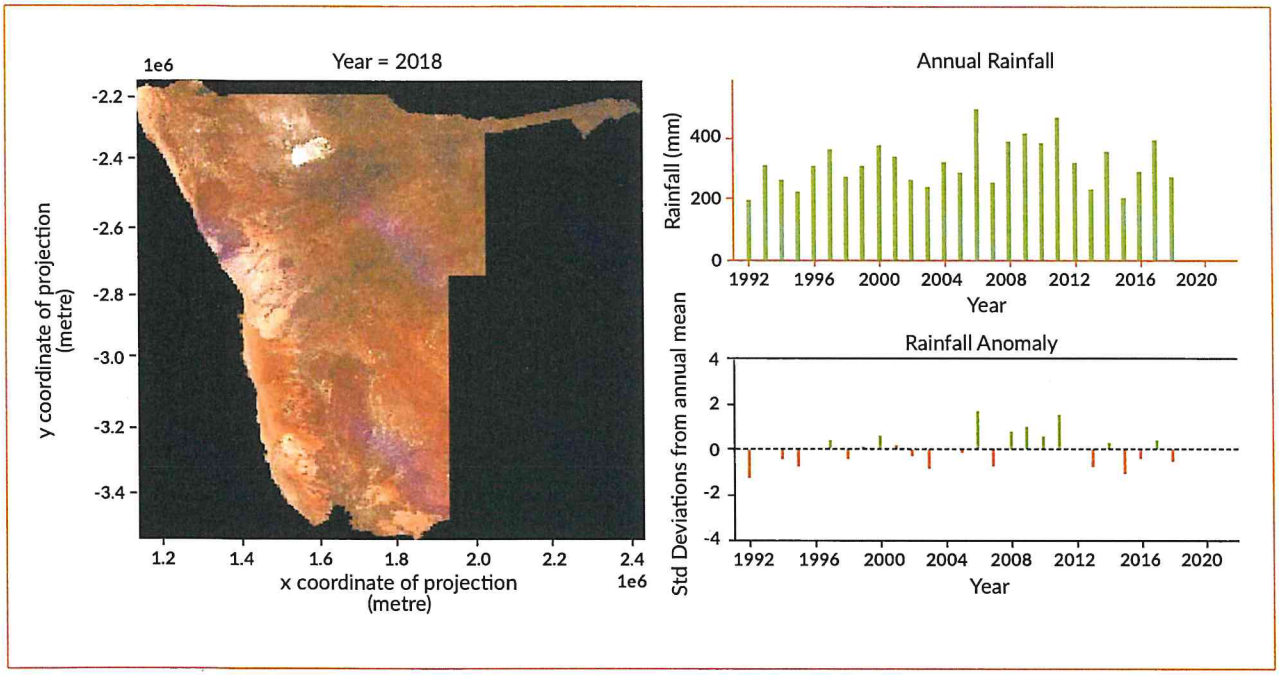


Figure 2:SASSCAL AGRI-Watch output

CLIMATE SERVICES GATEWAY

Under the TIPPECC project, the Climate Services Gateway provides open access to CMIP6, CORDEX-CORE, and bespoke high-resolution downscaled climate projections for Southern Africa. As the region's first integrated climate-service platform, it delivers decision-ready climate information to governments, planners, and researchers, useful for improving representation of drought, heat extremes, and hydrological stress in planning processes.

CROP CALENDAR

SASSCAL developed a crop calendar to support farmers in making informed agricultural decisions, particularly regarding the optimal timing for planting and harvesting different crops. The calendar combines field observations, local climate data, and historical experimental results to provide guidance on crop production under varying rainfall and temperature conditions, helping to improve agricultural planning and productivity.

HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT



Participants at the SASSCAL Data Analysis and Scientific Writing Training Workshop held in Francistown, Botswana, in November 2025

Capacity development remained one of SASSCAL's most impactful areas of work in 2025. Through scholarships, doctoral programmes, short courses, and mobility opportunities, the organisation contributed to building a new generation of African scientists, technologists, and water professionals equipped to address the region's most pressing development challenges.

SASSCAL 2.0 STUDENT PORTFOLIO



Graduates of the SASSCAL 2.0 Programme

A total of 104 research students were supported under the SASSCAL 2.0 programme across five member states, with Namibia hosting (34 students; 33%), followed by Angola (27; 26%), Botswana (20; 19%), Zambia (14; 14%), and South Africa (9; 9%). The portfolio was distributed across academic levels, with MSc candidates forming the largest cohort (43%), followed by BSc students (28%) and PhD candidates (20%). Of these, 82% were in active thesis-writing phases, while 19 students completed their programmes during the year.

	BSc	MSc	PhD	Post-Doc
ANGOLA	24	3	0	0
BOTSWANA	0	13	7	0
NAMIBIA	4	24	6	0
S.AFRICA	0	5	3	1
ZAMBIA	0	9	4	1

SGSP-IWRM: GRADUATE STUDIES IN INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



Participants at the SGSP-IWRM Symposium held in Windhoek, Namibia

The SASSCAL Graduate Studies Programme on Integrated Water Resources Management reached a turning point in 2025. Four PhD students graduated successfully, three additional students defended their theses and are scheduled to graduate in April 2026, and one submitted a thesis for examination. Four short courses were delivered during the year to regional professionals in water resources management, attracting over 150 applications from across SASSCAL member countries. The First Cohort Symposium, convened in November 2025 at Windhoek, brought together over 80 participants, including PhD candidates, water sector experts, and development partners, to showcase the programme's research contributions. Scientific mobility to Germany facilitated knowledge exchange and academic networking for participating students.

SGSP-AFSLM: GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAMME IN AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT



SASSCAL Governing Board Members pictured at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Centre of Excellence that will host the SGSP-AFSLM

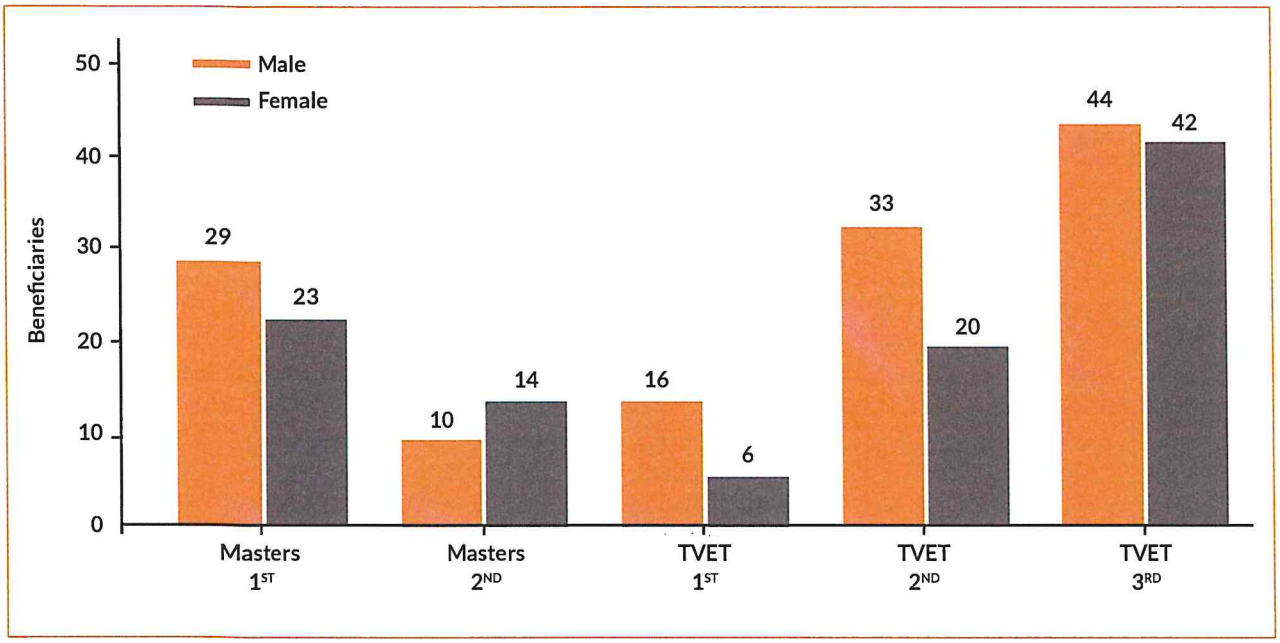
SASSCAL approved the Graduate Studies Programme and the establishment of the Centre of Excellence in Agriculture, Food Security and Sustainable Land Management (SGSP-AFSLM) in Angola in October 2025. The doctoral programme will be hosted by SASSCAL in partnership with the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at the José Eduardo dos Santos University (UJES) in partnership with Agostinho Neto University and the German University of Kassel. The study programme is expected to accommodate 15 students, including three students from each member country.

YOUTH FOR GREEN HYDROGEN (Y4H2) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME



Picture: SASSCAL-Sponsored TVET Students Attend Green Hydrogen Masterclass Training

The Y4H2 Scholarship Programme supported 235 beneficiaries across three cohorts in 2025, comprising 130 males and 105 females. Nine Master's degree graduates and five TVET completions were recorded during the year, bringing cumulative Master's graduates to 22 since the programme's inception. A third call for TVET scholarships, backed by €1.2 million from the Namibian and German governments, was launched in July 2025, targeting youth from the Hardap and //Kharas regions; 86 of 90 scholarship recipients commenced studies in October 2025.



Y4H2 Scholarship Beneficiaries by Cohort and Gender (2025)

Programme/Cohort	Male	Female	Total
Masters – 1st Cohort	29	23	52
Masters – 2nd Cohort	10	14	24
TVET – 1st Cohort	14	6	20
TVET – 2nd Cohort	33	20	53
TVET – 3rd Cohort	44	42	86
Total	130	105	235

Youth for Green Hydrogen Scholarship Programme – Enrolment Statistics as at December 2025

The Y4H2 Scholarship Programme statistics as at December 2025

Academic mobility to Germany remained a key component of the programme, with 21 students, including the first cohort Masters and TVET students, successfully completing academic and practical placements at eight German institutions listed in the table below.

Two Master Classes delivered in Windhoek and Ondangwa equipped 86 TVET students with knowledge and practical skills in green hydrogen technologies, supported by five SASSCAL staff and two leading academic professors. An information-sharing field campaign visited all 13 TVET centres hosting Y4H2 beneficiaries in Namibia, with the aim of strengthening communication, addressing student needs, and reinforcing programme oversight. This outreach reached over 7,000 young people during the application drive for the third cohort.

TVET Mobility Institutions list

#	German Institution	Students
1	Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZJ)	6
2	University of Potsdam	2
3	Hochschule RheinMain University	2
4	Bayreuth Universität	1
5	Hochschule Esslingen University of Applied Sciences	1
6	Julius Kühn Institut	1
7	Max Planck für KohlenForschung	1
8	Stuttgart University	1
9	Handwerk Bremen	6

GMES & Africa WeMAST Capacity Building

The Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) & Africa WeMAST Phase II project supported 15 students enrolled at the University of Botswana, Midlands State University (Zimbabwe), University of the Western Cape, and the University of Zambia. The cohort included four honours students, five master's students, four PhD candidates, and two post-doctoral fellows. During the reporting period, the two post-doctoral fellows and all honours students completed their studies, all master's students have graduated. The remaining one PhD candidate, Chilawe Chibwe at UNZA is anticipated to complete during 2026. One of the post-doctoral fellows, Dr Siyamthanda Goxhwe, has since been appointed as a Remote Sensing Scientist at the South African National Space Agency (SANSA).

#	Project	Hons	MSc	PhD	Post-Doc	Total
1	WeMAST II	4	5	4	2	15

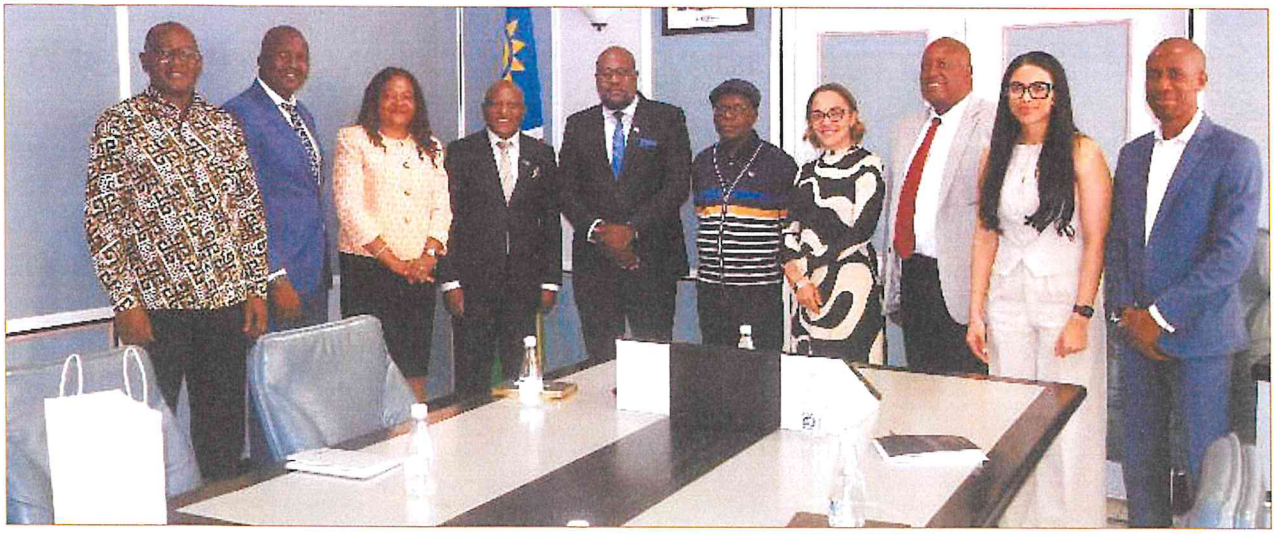
WeMAST Phase II — Research Students by Academic Level (2025)

STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENTS

A total of 22 strategic engagements were undertaken during the year, including high-level courtesy visits, intergovernmental meetings, international conferences, and scientific symposia. These engagements strengthened SASSCAL's visibility, partnerships, and contribution to regional and global discussions on climate change, sustainable development, and scientific research.



SASSCAL Executive-Level Engagement Mission in Angola



SASSCAL Management Paying a Courtesy Visit to the Office of the Prime Minister



Participants at the SGSP-IWRM Stakeholder Engagement Event in Pretoria, South Africa



Group Photo of Participants at the SASSCAL 2.0 Thematic Workshop in Zambia

EXECUTIVE-LEVEL MISSIONS TO MEMBER STATES

Following the appointment of the new Executive Director, executive-level missions were undertaken to all five SASSCAL member states (Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia). These visits introduced the Executive Director, strengthened political and institutional relationships, and gathered stakeholder inputs for the development of the SASSCAL 3.0 Strategy.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE EU AMBASSADOR TO NAMIBIA

A strategic meeting was held to strengthen cooperation and explore opportunities for collaboration in climate change, research, and sustainable development initiatives.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF NAMIBIA

Discussions focused on SASSCAL's contributions to national development priorities, climate resilience, environmental monitoring, and scientific research.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WASCAL

The meeting explored opportunities for collaboration between SASSCAL and WASCAL in research, capacity development, and regional climate initiatives.

SASSCAL 2.0 SCIENCE CONFERENCE, ANGOLA

The conference brought together researchers, policymakers, development partners, and other stakeholders to showcase scientific achievements and research outputs under the SASSCAL 2.0 Programme.

INAUGURATION OF AFRICA'S FIRST INTEGRATED GREEN HYDROGEN PLANT, NAMIBIA

SASSCAL participated in the inauguration of the Cleanergy Green Hydrogen Plant and Refuelling Station, highlighting Namibia's growing role in the green hydrogen sector and SASSCAL's contribution to green hydrogen research and capacity development.

SASSCAL GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAMME (SGSP-IWRM)END-OF-PROGRAMME SYMPOSIUM, NAMIBIA

Held in Windhoek, the symposium brought together over 80 participants, including students, academic staff, water experts, research organisations, and development partners to reflect on the achievements and outputs of the programme's first cohort.

PARTICIPATION IN COP30, BELÉM, BRAZIL

SASSCAL participated in global discussions on climate change, sharing regional experiences and strengthening international partnerships.

5TH GLOBAL CONGRESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE, BERLIN, GERMANY

SASSCAL contributed to discussions on climate change research, adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable development.

GLOBAL AFRICAN HYDROGEN SUMMIT, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

SASSCAL partnered with the event organisers, delivered presentations during parallel sessions, and coordinated the participation of more than 80 beneficiaries of the Youth for Green Hydrogen Scholarship Programme, promoting youth engagement in the emerging green hydrogen sector.

SGSP-IWRM VISIBILITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT EVENT, ONGWEDIVA, NAMIBIA

The hybrid event attracted approximately 70 participants from various institutions and promoted awareness of the programme among stakeholders.

SGSP-IWRM STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT EVENT, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

The event engaged nearly 60 participants, including water-sector experts, academics, policymakers, researchers, development partners, and prospective PhD candidates.

SASSCAL 2.0 THEMATIC WORKSHOP, ANGOLA

The workshop engaged more than 100 stakeholders in discussions on research progress, scientific findings, and policy implications.

SASSCAL 2.0 THEMATIC WORKSHOP, NAMIBIA

More than 100 stakeholders participated in dialogue on research outcomes and their relevance to national development priorities.

SASSCAL 2.0 THEMATIC WORKSHOP, ZAMBIA

The workshop facilitated engagement between researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders on programme achievements and policy relevance.

AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATION HANDOVER CEREMONY, ZAMBIA

The handover of Automatic Weather Stations strengthened national climate monitoring capacity and was attended by senior government officials and representatives of the German Government.

AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATION HANDOVER CEREMONY, NAMIBIA

The event marked the transfer of climate monitoring infrastructure to support weather observation and climate services.

AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATION HANDOVER CEREMONY, BOTSWANA

The handover contributed to strengthening climate monitoring systems and national meteorological services.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE CUBANGO–OKAVANGO RIVER BASIN (CORB), MAUN, BOTSWANA

SASSCAL participated in discussions on biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management across the basin. The workshop aimed to develop a river basin map using the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology, with SASSCAL contributing expertise on biodiversity, land-use change, ecosystem assessment, and data management.

26TH WATERNET SYMPOSIUM, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

Seven SGSP-IWRM students presented their research, gaining valuable scientific feedback and networking opportunities with regional and international experts.

WATERNET SUMMER SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA

A SASSCAL-supported PhD student participated in the summer school on innovative approaches to sustainable catchment and water resources management before presenting research at the WaterNet Symposium.

GMES & AFRICA FORUM, CAIRO, EGYPT

SASSCAL presented the achievements of the GMES & Africa WeMAST II Project. The forum marked the final event of the programme's implementation phase and provided an opportunity to showcase wetlands monitoring tools, the geo-portal platform, and capacity development achievements across Southern Africa.

SASSCAL VISIBILITY AND PROMOTION

A total of 38 articles and press releases were published on the SASSCAL website during the year, while 204 social media posts were shared across Facebook, LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube. These included project documentaries, podcasts, videos, event coverage, and research highlights. In addition, media coverage generated through stakeholder events helped raise public awareness of SASSCAL's activities, achievements, and impact across the region. The institution also contributed to the WeMAST communication strategy, developing content pieces aligned with major international observances and environmental events. Two Management Reports and newsletters were produced during the year.

LINKS TO PUBLISHED NEWS ARTICLES

https://sasscal.org/tvet-green-hydrogen-masterclass-to-strengthen-namibias-future-energy-workforce/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-hosts-first-symposium-for-its-graduate-programme-in-integrated-water-resources-management/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-hosts-first-symposium-for-its-graduate-programme-in-integrated-water-resources-management/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-hands-over-44-modern-weather-stations-to-boost-climate-services-in-namibia/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-hands-over-new-state-of-the-art-automatic-weather-stations-to-the-zambian-government/
https://sasscal.org/icera-2025-the-international-conference-on-circular-economy-renewable-energies-and-green-hydrogen-in-africa/
https://sasscal.org/namibia-inaugurates-africas-first-integrated-green-hydrogen-plant/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-and-cleanergy-solutions-namibia-sign-e2-057-million-phase-2-agreement-to-accelerate-namibias-green-hydrogen-future/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-showcases-green-hydrogen-leadership-at-the-global-african-hydrogen-summit-2025/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-to-host-automated-weather-station-wenet-project-handover-ceremony-and-wemast-phase-ii-stakeholders-training-in-gaborone/
https://sasscal.org/official-announcement-of-the-sasscal-2-0-science-conference-by-prof-nelago-indongo-executive-director/
https://sasscal.org/strengthening-green-hydrogen-research-in-namibia/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-2-0-mid-term-technical-event-ends-on-a-successful-note/
https://sasscal.org/press-release-sasscal-to-conduct-mid-term-technical-review-meeting-in-south-africa/
https://sasscal.org/3rd-y4h2-scholarship-call-launched-to-empower-namibian-youth-in-kharas-and-hardap/
https://sasscal.org/press-release-sasscal-commemorates-the-world-day-to-combat-desertification-and-drought-17-june-2025/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-concludes-thematic-workshops-in-its-member-states/
https://sasscal.org/driving-green-hydrogen-research-namibia-germanys-partnership/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-appoints-new-executive-director/
https://sasscal.org/mr-clive-m-mulumba-to-take-up-sasscal-director-of-finance-and-administration-role/
https://sasscal.org/sgsp-iwrm-celebrates-first-phd-graduate-dr-maria-kanyama/
https://sasscal.org/driving-namibias-green-hydrogen-future-sasscals-site-visits-to-daures-and-cleanergy/
https://sasscal.org/press-release-sasscal-2-0-thematic-workshop-scheduled-for-zambia/
https://sasscal.org/namibia-delivers-on-sasscal-2-0-and-green-hydrogen-projects/
https://sasscal.org/sasscals-angola-node-briefs-stakeholders-on-2-0-research-portfolio/
https://sasscal.org/feature-story-building-capacity-for-wetland-conservation-the-wemast-projects-impact/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-hosts-productive-meeting-with-technical-partners-to-finalize-wemast-project-plans/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-implements-e6-1-million-climate-change-projects-in-zambia/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-and-warma-to-collaborate-on-water-resources/
https://sasscal.org/wemast-geoportal-key-for-monitoring-wetland-health-in-southern-africa-building-resilience-for-the-future/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-highlights-green-hydrogen-initiatives-at-2024-sadc-sustainable-energy-week/
https://sasscal.org/feature-gmes-and-africa-student-exchange-program-empowers-young-scientists/
https://sasscal.org/empowering-southern-african-young-scientists-through-a-fully-funded-phd-programme-in-integrated-water-resources-management/
https://sasscal.org/southern-africa-surpasses-critical-1-5c-global-temperature-threshold/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-launch-updates-on-scientific-progress-for-2-0-research-portfolio-in-botswana/
https://sasscal.org/sasscal-grants-extension-to-its-inauguaral-sgsp-iwrm-cohort/

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The Administration and Finance function strengthened institutional governance, financial oversight and operational efficiency during the year. Progress was made in updating the policy framework, tightening financial controls, modernising human-resource systems and securing robust external audit arrangements — collectively improving transparency, accountability and long-term financial sustainability.

POLICY UPDATE AND REVIEW

Management completed a comprehensive review of the organisation's core governance documents, and the Board approved a revised Finance Policy, Procurement Policy and Operations Manual — the first major update of these foundational policies since 2015. The revised framework aligns SASSCAL's internal controls with current international best practice and establishes a more consistent, robust control environment across the Regional Secretariat and all National Nodes.

PAYROLL AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

To improve the efficiency and compliance of human-resource management, the organisation implemented an integrated human-resource and payroll system. The system supports performance management, leave administration, payroll processing and benefits tracking, enhancing operational effectiveness and strengthening internal controls.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

HLB was appointed as external auditor for the five-year period 2021 to 2025, covering both financial and compliance audits. The audit has since been completed, and the financial information presented in this report is consistent with the audited financial statements of the Regional Secretariat and the National Nodes. This independent assurance affirms to the Board, Member States and development partners the integrity of SASSCAL's financial management and its compliance with applicable regulations. A summary of the approved operational budget is set out below.

Budget	Amounts (€)
Personnel Costs	1,545,649
Fringe Benefits	578,737
Travel/Subsistence	94,472
Workshops & Meetings	243,051
Board Meetings	190,000
Consumables	38,890
Services & Utilities	114,378
Building Rent	46,754
Training	29,696
Audit Fees	90,000
Communication & Marketing	130,000
Furniture and Equipment	114,116
Hardware & Software	30,000
Total approved operational budget	**3 245 743**

INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND FUND BALANCES

SASSCAL closed 2025 with consolidated income of €5.3 million (2024: €9.0 million) and expenditure of €5.4 million — a marginal net deficit of €47,885, under one per cent of income. For transparency, the results are reported separately for SASSCAL's two distinct funding streams, **Programme and Project Funds** and **Operational Funds,** each with prior-year comparatives.

Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure by Fund

For the years ended 31 December 2025 and 2024 — all amounts in Euro (€) | Cash receipts and payments basis

	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
PROGRAMME / PROJECT FUNDS *BMBF/BMFTR grants & AU WeMAST*		
Income	4 118 224	6 543 505
Expenditure	(3 583 216)	(4 497 459)
Net surplus / (deficit)	**535 008**	**2 046 046**
OPERATIONAL FUNDS Member State Contributions		
Income	1 197 971	2 414 951
Expenditure	(1 780 864)	(1 433 602)
Net surplus / (deficit)	**(582 893)**	**981 349**
CONSOLIDATED TOTAL		
Total income	5 316 195	8 958 456
Total expenditure	(5 364 080)	(5 931 061)
Net surplus / (deficit) for the year	**(47 885)**	**3 027 395**

Programme and Project Funds returned a surplus of €535,008 (2024: €2.0 million), with delivery financed substantially from accumulated reserves as multi-year research commitments were disbursed to National Nodes, universities and research institutions. Operational Funds recorded a deficit of €582,893 (2024: surplus of €981,349).

STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCES

Total fund balances closed the year at €4.7 million (2024: €10.8 million) — €2.26 million within Programme and Project Funds and €2.48 million within Operational Funds. The €6.1 million reduction reflects the planned deployment of accumulated programme reserves to finance active multi-year research commitments. New BMBF programme commitments of approximately €12.3 million secured in the second half of 2025 provide a solid financial base through 2029.

Consolidated Statement of Fund Balances by Fund

As at 31 December 2025 and 2024 — all amounts in Euro (€) | Cash receipts and payments basis

	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
PROGRAMME / PROJECT FUNDS		
BMBF / BMFTR programme accounts	2 259 718	7 734 780
African Union WeMAST account	1 212	80 546
Sub-total — Programme / Project Funds	**2 260 930**	**7 815 326**
OPERATIONAL FUNDS		
Member State Contribution accounts	2 482 033	2 998 261
Sub-total — Operational Funds	**2 482 033**	**2 998 261**
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	**4 742 963**	**10 813 587**

Operational Fund reserves include Member State contributions designated for the purchase of the Regional Secretariat's premises

PROGRAMME FUNDS AND OPERATIONAL FUNDS

SASSCAL is financed through two distinct types of funds, maintained in separate, dedicated bank accounts and reported separately above. Programme and Project Funds are restricted grants provided by development partners — principally the German Federal Ministry (BMBF/BMFTR) and the African Union (WeMAST programme) — for the delivery of specific multi-year research programmes such as SASSCAL 2.0, JCOI and SGSP. These funds may be applied only to the programmes for which they are awarded.

Operational Funds are the contributions received from SASSCAL's Member States. They finance the core running of the institution — governance, personnel and administration of the Regional Secretariat and National Nodes — and provide the stable institutional base on which the research programmes are delivered. A portion is set aside from Member State contributions towards the purchase of the Regional Secretariat's own premises.

MEMBER STATE CONTRIBUTIONS

Member State Contributions remain central to SASSCAL's financial sustainability and reflect each Member State's continued ownership of the regional programme. As the operational result above shows, the timely settlement of contributions is essential to fully funding the institution's core costs. The Board and Regional Secretariat continue to engage directly and constructively with Member State governments to support full settlement, and remain confident in SASSCAL's ongoing partnership with all five states.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Management reviewed all staff job descriptions and updated the organisational structure, with the revised organogram approved by the Board. These initiatives improved role clarity, strengthened the alignment between structure and strategy, and supported more effective workforce planning. The organisation strengthened its senior leadership with two key appointments: Prof. Nelago Indongo as Executive Director and Mr Clive Mutale Mulumba as Director of Administration and Finance, both effective 1 June 2025. A further six staff were appointed across the Regional Secretariat and National Nodes in technical and administrative roles, with one internal promotion and two resignations during the period.

STAFF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The organisation continued to prioritise staff professional development to strengthen institutional capacity and support delivery of its strategic objectives. Targeted training and orientation were undertaken across the Regional Secretariat and National Nodes, focusing on the updated governance framework and operational systems — including the revised Finance and Procurement Policies, the updated Operations Manual, and the new human-resource and payroll system with its performance-management functionality. These initiatives improved compliance, enhanced operational efficiency and reinforced a culture of continuous learning.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Resource mobilisation remained a key strategic priority. The organisation secured new multi-year funding commitments while strengthening the institutional capacity needed for a more diversified and sustainable resource base, reducing reliance on any single funding source. During the year SASSCAL concluded several major funding agreements with international development partners, including BMFTR, with a combined value of approximately €12.3 million over 2025 to 2029. The new funding supports continued implementation of the organisation's core programmes in green hydrogen and renewable energy, alongside capacity development and research across Member States. To reinforce the function, SASSCAL appointed a dedicated specialist to lead fundraising and partnership development and, in parallel, developed and submitted a pipeline of proposals aligned with its thematic priorities in research, human-capacity development and climate and energy solutions. Together, these achievements strengthen SASSCAL's financial sustainability and position it to respond to emerging opportunities in climate-change adaptation, renewable energy and sustainable land management.

Basis of preparation

Financial statements are prepared on the cash receipts and payments basis, consistent with the audited financial statements of the Regional Secretariat and the National Nodes. Inter-entity transfers are eliminated on consolidation. Programme and Project Funds = BMBF/BMFTR grants and AU WeMAST; Operational Funds = Member State Contributions. All amounts are stated in Euro (€) and rounded to the nearest Euro.

SASSCAL

Southern African
Science Service Centre for
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SASSCAL Regional Secretariat
T: +264 (0) 61 223 997
E: communications@sasscal.org
W: www.sasscal.org

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