

SALAKO Kolawolé Valère, UAC Local Coordinator

Bibliographic sketch narrative (max. 300 words)

Dr. Salako is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin. He holds a PhD in Plant Ecology and Conservation, a M.Sc. in Natural Resources and Biodiversity Management, a M.Sc. in Biostatistics, and an Agricultural Engineering degree. Former alumnus of the Tropical Biology Association, his interdisciplinary research integrates (i) *Forest Ecology and Management*, (ii) *Traditional Agroforestry Systems Analysis*, and (iii) *Biostatistics*. In **“Forest Ecology and Management”**, he aims to understand how environmental factors such as climate and soils combined with anthropogenic pressures affect tree species diversity, population structure and dynamics, ecosystems functioning (carbon) and conservation, in ecosystems such as savannahs, woodlands, semi-deciduous forests, and mangroves. Insights generated are used to guide field actions for sustainable management of the tropical ecosystems. In **“Traditional Agroforestry Systems Analysis”**, he particularly works on parklands, and homegardens. Here, he aims to understand plant species diversity and conservation, carbon storage potential, socio-cultural importance to farmers, the potential for domestication of the most important species and effective methods for their propagation. He further aims to understand the potential impact of climate change on these species and their responses to abiotic factors such as drought and salinity. Insights generated are used to guide the sustainable management of plants in these agroforestry systems and strategies for adaptation to climate change. In **“Biostatistics”**, his research aims to assess performances of statistical methods for multivariate analysis of ecological community data but also develop simple user guides for students and researchers for the applications of these methods. He has (co)authored more than 160 scientific publications, delivered advanced training in ecological and statistical methods, and contributed to multidisciplinary research and development programmes with African and international partners. His experience connecting rigorous science with conservation practice, community engagement, and evidence-based decision-making closely supports TROPIMUNDO’s international and interdisciplinary approach.

1	Family name	SALAKO	
2	First name	Kolawole Valere	
3	Place and Date of birth	KPEDEKPO (BENIN), 28/04/1986	
4	Nationality	Beninese	
5	E-mail	salakovalere@gmail.com / valere.salako@fsa.uac.bj	
6	Education / Professional studies		
	Dates (from-to)	Institution	Degree/diploma
	2013 - 2016	University of Abomey-Calavi	PhD in Plant Ecology and Conservation
	2015 - 2017	University of Abomey-Calavi	M.Sc. in Biostatistics
	2011 – 2012	University of Abomey-Calavi	M.Sc. Natural Resources Management and Biodiversity

	2005 - 2011	University of Abomey-Calavi	Agricultural Engineer degree, specializing in Natural Resources Management
7	Language skills Grade skill 1-5 (1 = basic, 5 = excellent, * = mother tongue)		
	Language	Speaking	Reading Writing
	French	5	5 5
	English	4	5 4
	Yoruba	*	* *
	Fongbé	4	3 3
8	Membership of professional bodies		
	- International union of agroforestry (IUAf, Founding member, since 2019). - British Ecological Society (BES, since 2020) - International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO, member 1019.00.00) - Association for Tropical Biology & Conservation (ATBC): Since 2017 - International Biometric Society (IBS, Since 2016) - Tropical Biology Association (TBA) Alumni: Since 2015 - Society for Conservation Biology (SCB): Since 2014 - Society for Economic Botany (SEB): Since 2013		
9	Other Skills		
10	Name of organisation currently working for and Present position in the organisation	- Faculty of Agronomic Sciences, University of Abomey-Calavi (Senior lecturer) - Laboratoire de Biomathématiques et d'Estimations Forestières, Faculty of Agronomic Sciences, University of Abomey-Calavi (Scientific Coordinator)	
11	Years with the organisation	7 years	
12	Long-term experience in selected countries/territories		
	Country	Date	Details
	Belgium	2019 - 2021	Postdoctoral research at Université Libre de Bruxelles (Wallonie-Bruxelles International Excellence fellowship)
	Burkina Faso	2021 - 2022	Postdoctoral research at Université Joseph Ki Zerbo (DAAD climapAfrica - Climate change research in Africa fellowship)
13	Professional experience record		
	Location	Date	Organisation
1	Benin	2021 – 2024	Faculty of Agronomic Sciences, University of Abomey-Calavi
	Position	Assistant Professor of Forestry and Biostatistics	
	Responsibilities	Teaching, Student thesis supervision, research and training (degree, and short courses) proposals writing, field courses in tropical ecosystems with B.Sc. and M.Sc. students	
2	Benin	2015 – now	Laboratoire de Biomathématiques et d'Estimations Forestières, Faculty of Agronomic Sciences, University of Abomey-Calavi

	Position	Scientific Coordinator
	Responsibilities	Student thesis supervision, Student (M.Sc., PhD, and Post-doc) mentoring, organisation of scientific seminars organisation (topic identification, invitation of guest speakers, seminar organisation), writing research and training (degree, and short courses) proposals, organisation of short courses.
14	Publications	
	Number of publications in peer-reviewed journals	
	165	
	10 publications that are most representative in the field of tropical biodiversity and ecosystems	
	1. Salako K.V., Akodekou A.D., Gnansounou S. C., Houenon H., Dassou G. H., Avocanh A., Bossa R., Akouete P., Glèlè Kakaï R. (2026). Coastal dunes as social-ecological systems: A preliminary survey of vegetation patterns, local perceptions and implications for coastal resilience in Benin (West Africa). <i>Journal for Nature Conservation</i>, 127446. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2026.127446 2. Dogbo, S.F., Salako, K.V., Mensah, S., Agoundé, G., Dimobe, K., Assogbadjo, A.E., Gebauer, J., Adou Yao, C.Y. and Glèlè Kakaï, R., (2026). Peri-urban agroforestry for climate mitigation in West Africa: Structural diversity and functional traits as key drivers of carbon storage. <i>Plants, People, Planet</i>. https://doi.org/10.1002/ppp3.70238 3. Gnansounou, S.C., Salako, K.V., Pellowe, K.E., Diallo, K., Glèlè Kakaï, R.L., Kestemont, P. and Henry, S., (2026). Synergies between legal frameworks and traditional rules, and their potential for enhancing the social-ecological resilience of mangroves. <i>Ocean & Coastal Management</i>, 271, p.107950. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2025.107950 4. Mensah, S., Noulèkoun, F., Salako, V.K., Dimobe, K., Sheppard, J., Assogbadjo, A., Glèlè Kakaï, R.L. and Seifert, T. (2025). Legacy effects of fire on tree diversity, structure and aboveground carbon in tropical semi-arid naturally assembled communities. <i>Ecological Informatics</i>, p.103487. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoinf.2025.103487 5. Agounde, G., Salako, K.V., Idohou, R.A., Sode, A.I., Mensah, S., Dimobe, K., Assogbadjo, A.E., Glèlè Kakaï, R. (2025). Climate change may shift diet of the African savanna elephant: Preliminary results for 14 food tree and shrub species in the WAPOK transboundary ecosystem, West-Africa. <i>Global Ecology and Conservation</i>, 58, p.e03468. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2025.e03468 6. Zanzo, S.M., Salako, K.V., Mensah, S., Glèlè Kakaï, R. (2023). Impacts of harvesting intensity on carbon allocation to species, size classes and pools in mangrove forests, and the relationships with stand structural attributes. <i>Ecological Indicators</i> (155) 111037. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2023.111037 7. Sabo P., Salako K.V., Glèlè Kakaï R., Ouédraogo A. (2022). Combined effects of tree size and tapping techniques on resin production of <i>Boswellia dalzielii</i> Hutch., an African frankincense tree. <i>Trees</i>, https://doi.org/10.1007/s00468-022-02320-1 8. Mensah S., Salako V.K., Seifert T. (2020). Structural complexity and large-sized trees explain shifting species richness and carbon relationship across vegetation types. <i>Functional Ecology</i> 34(8): 1731-1745. https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2435.13585 9. Salako V.K., Azihou A.F., Assogbadjo A.E., Houéhanou T.T., Kassa B.D., Glèlè Kakaï R.L. (2015). Elephant-induced damage drives spatial isolation of the dioecious palm <i>Borassus aethiopum</i> Mart. (Arecaceae) in the Pendjari National Park, Benin. <i>African Journal of Ecology</i>. 54 (1): 9-19. https://doi.org/10.1111/aje.12253 10. Salako V.K., Fandohan B., Assogbadjo A.E., Idohou F.A.R., Gbedomon R.C., Chakeredza S., Dulllo M.E., Glèlè Kakaï R. (2014). Home gardens: An assessment of their biodiversity and potential contribution to conservation of threatened species and crop wild relatives in Benin. <i>Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution</i> 61: 313–330. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10722-013-0035-8	

15	Number of conference presentations (between brackets invited contributions)		
	International : 32, National : 22, Invited talks : 3		
16	Most important awards		
	Award	Award date	Issuing organisation
1	Prix de la Francophonie pour jeunes chercheurs	2025	Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)
2	Benin Young Scientists Awards	2021	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)
3	Excellence Postdoctoral Fellowship	2019	Wallonie-Bruxelles International
4	TWAS Young Affiliateship	2017	The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)
5	Grant for Junior Researchers	2016	African-German Network of Excellence in Science (AGNES)