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Dr. Adelina Mensah is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies (IESS), University of Ghana. She holds a PhD in Natural Sciences from the University of Bonn, Germany, where she was also a Resident Scholar at the United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS). She earned an MPhil in Marine Sciences and Coastal Management and an MSc in Tropical Coastal Zone Management from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK, and a BSc in Zoology and Botany from the University of Ghana.

Dr. Mensah has a multidisciplinary foundation in environmental sciences, and her academic work lies at the intersection of climate change, ecosystems and human wellbeing. Her research examines how climate variability, environmental degradation, and institutional dynamics shape community vulnerability, adaptation pathways, and long-term sustainability outcomes. In recent years, she has expanded her work into climate-health linkages, collaborating with the health sector and other partners to understand how climate and environmental stressors influence disease risks, community practices, and resilience in vulnerable populations.

She has over 15 years of teaching and research experience and served as Graduate Students Coordinator from 2019 to 2024, mentoring and supervising undergraduate and graduate students. Beyond academia, she engages widely with government agencies, communities and sectoral partners, applying transdisciplinary methods to understand environmental change and community resilience. She has led and contributed to several multi-country, donor-funded projects and works closely with national

	institutions to support national environmental policy development, including contributions to the National Climate Change Policy and its Implementation Plan, the National Biodiversity Policy and its Implementation Plan, and the Policy for One Health in Ghana.
Research Areas	
Climate Change, Vulnerability, and Adaptation Understanding how climate variability and environmental stressors shape community vulnerability, adaptation decisions, and resilience across diverse settings. Climate–Health Interactions and WASH Behaviour Examining how environmental change influences disease risks, diarrhoeal dynamics, health behaviours, and public health preparedness in vulnerable populations. Ecosystems, Biodiversity, and Socio-Ecological Systems Investigating ecosystem change, biodiversity loss, and human–environment interactions, and their impacts on livelihoods and sustainability. Environmental Governance and Policy Processes Exploring how institutions, governance systems, and policy frameworks shape environmental management, climate action, and evidence-based decision-making. Water Resources, Pollution, and Coastal/Freshwater Sustainability Investigating water quality, pollution risks, and the links between ecological change and human wellbeing.	
Recent Publications <i>(Up to 10)</i>	
1 Mensah, A. M., Karanja, F. N., Tagoe, C. A., Bobie, A. O., Wrigley-Asante, C., Boateng, R., ... & Mugo, B. M. (2026). Advancing Women in STEM Leadership: Policy Analysis with Insights from Water-related Sectors in Ghana and Kenya. In H. Whitehead & M. Dipieri (Eds.), <i>Dismantling Gender Barriers in STEM</i>(pp 165 – 186). African Books Collective. 2 Lawson, E. T., Asabil, B., Salifu, A. Z., Alare, R. S., Ayivor, J. S., & Mensah, A. (2025). Climate-related information sources and the adaptation decisions of women crop farmers in the Guinea Savannah Zone of Ghana. <i>African Geographical Review</i>, 1–20. https://doi.org/10.1080/19376812.2025.2574343 3 Bezerra, J.C. et al. (2025). Addressing Food Insecurity Through Community Kitchens During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Case Study from the Eastern Cape, South Africa. <i>Urban Science</i> 9(2), https://doi.org/10.3390/urbansci9020037 4 Arko, T., Mensah, A.M., Obani, P., Adomako, J., & Denton, F., & (2024). The charcoal footprint of greater Accra on the Afram Plains: Urban energy consumption and forest degradation in Ghana, <i>Trees, Forests and People</i>,18, 100678, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tfp.2024.100678	

- 5 Mattah, M.M., Mattah, P. A., Mensah, A., Babannawo, D., Brempong, E., Mensah, J., Appeaning Addo, K. (2023). Assessment of social factors that promote the vulnerability of communities to coastal hazards in the Volta estuary in Ghana. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 95, 103896, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdrr.2023.103896>
- 6 Arko, T., Mensah, A.M., Adomako, J., Denton, F., & Obani, P. (2024). The Multifaceted Socio-ecological Impacts of Charcoal Production on the Afram Plains, Ghana. *Trees, Forests and People*, 100586, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tfp.2024.100586>.
- 7 Chicmana-Zapata, V., et al. (2024). Justice implications of health and food security policies for Indigenous peoples facing COVID-19: a qualitative study and policy analysis in Peru. *Health Policy and Planning*, 39 (4), 445 – 445.
- 8 Agyeman Boafo, Y., Ohemeng, F.N.A., Ayivor, J., Ayitiah, J.A., Yirenya-Tawiah, D., Mensah, A., Datsa, C., Annang, T., & Adom, L. (2024). Unraveling diarrheal disease knowledge, understanding, and management practices among climate change vulnerable coastal communities in Ghana. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 12, 1352275, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2024.1352275>
- 9 Zavaleta-Cortijo, C., Ford, J.D., et al. (2023). Indigenous knowledge, community resilience, and health emergency preparedness, *The Lancet Planetary Health*, 7 (8), E641-E643.
- 10 Galappaththi, E. K., et al. (2023). Policy responses to COVID-19 in Sri Lanka and the consideration of Indigenous peoples. *Environmental Science & Policy* 144, 110 – 123. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2023.03.008>.

Recent Research Projects (*Up to 10*)

1. The Africa Climate Collaborative, University of Ghana, in partnership with Cambridge University of Cambridge, Makerere University, University of Cape Town and Mastercard Foundation (2024 - 2032). Deputy Director, Operations.
2. The Indigenous Peoples Observatory Network (IPON): The Climate-Food-Health Nexus, Funded by New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) (2024 – 2027). Country lead.
3. Supporting Policy Regulations and Interventions to Negate aggravated Global diarrheal disease due to future climate Shocks (SPRINGS), Funded by European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA) (2024 - 2028). Country lead.
4. Advancing knowledge for Long-term Benefits and climate Adaptation Through Holistic Climate Services and Nature-Based Solutions (ALBATROSS) Project, Funded by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) (2024 – 2027). Country lead.
5. Tuwe Pamoja Project, "Let's be together" for equitable urban nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation. Funded by Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada. (2024 – 2026). Research team member.

6. Building Capacity to Crosslink Coastal Pollution with Climate Change (BC5) Project, Funded by Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED II) (2021 – 2026). Research team member.
7. Transforming Institutions to Advance Women Leaders in Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (SISTARS): Lessons from Ghana and Kenya Project, Funded by International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Canada (2022 – 2025). Principal Investigator.
8. The COVID Observatories: Monitoring the interaction of pandemics, climate risks, and food systems among the worlds most disadvantaged communities (Covid Observatories Project), Funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) (2020 – 2022). Country lead.
9. Transforming Social Inequalities through Inclusive Climate Action (TSITICA) Project, Funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) (2020 – 2023). Country lead.
10. Coastal Community Resilience to Climate Change and Diarrhoea (C2R-CD) Project, (2020 - 2026). Funded by Danida. Principal Investigator.

Teaching and Supervision *(Last 5 years)*

Courses Taught:

- Sustainability: Principles and Practice
- Climate Change Vulnerability, Impact, and Adaptation
- Emerging Environmental Issues
- Water Resources Management