

Climate Research for Development (CR4D) in Africa



Institutional Collaboration Platform (ICP) Launch Meeting

7-8 December 2017
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



I. Introduction

The Climate Research for Development (CR4D) in Africa initiative was launched to strengthen links between climate science research and climate information needs in support development planning in Africa. CR4D is an African-led initiative supported by partnership between African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), where Secretariat is hosted at ACPC. CR4D is the outcome of the African Climate Conference 2013 (ACC-2013)¹ that was held in Arusha, Tanzania, which brought together more than 300 participants including the African climate scientists, policy makers, climate service providers, and practitioners to discuss the state of African climate science and the existing gaps in climate knowledge. Participants at the ACC-2013, therefore, recommended the establishment of an African climate research agenda for climate services and development. It also seeks to advance new frontiers of African climate research, focusing on four priority areas:

- Creation of co-designed multi-disciplinary research to improve forecast skills and reliability;
- Filling gaps in multi-sectorial and multi-disciplinary data sets for sector-specific vulnerability and impacts assessments;
- Enhancing Africa's scientific and institutional capacities and networks to undertake cutting edge user-drive climate research; and
- Fostering effective collaboration and interactions among climate science, services, policy, and practice communities in order to improve mainstreaming of climate services in decision-making.

The CR4D initiative is governed through the Oversight Board, the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), and the Institutional Collaboration Platform (ICP). CR4D-ICP provides space to promote interactive and collaborative research approach that brings climate science, services and policy-making under a coordinated multi-disciplinary network of expertise and institutions to collectively address users-driven research challenges while maximizing on the opportunities presented by climate change and variability to socio-economic Development in Africa. This will lead to improved access, quality, usability, dissemination and mainstreaming of climate information/knowledge into socio-economic planning, and critical for Africa's meeting commitments under the Paris Agreement, Agenda 2063, as well as the SDGs. It also ensures that CR4D priority research activities are demand-driven and participatory, merging skills and experiences from diverse expertise and institutions, as as well as regionally balanced. Hence, the main objective of this meeting is to launch the Climate Research for Development Institutional

¹ Africa Climate Conference, 2013 (ACC2013) Statement:
<http://www.climdevafrica.org/sites/default/files/DocumentAttachments/ACC2013%20Conference%20Statement.pdf>

Collaboration Platform. The specific objectives include: -

- Reviewing of the ICP Terms of References (ToR);
- Electing the ICP-chair to be a member of the CR4D Oversight Board member; and
- Reviewing the draft 5-years CR4D Strategic Plan document.

The key outputs of this meeting will be the launching and operationalization of the CR4D-ICP and the meeting report.

II. Opening session

The opening session was moderated by Dr Johnson Nkem, Senior Adaptation Expert at the ACPC. After he welcomed the participants to the meeting, he expressed his hope that the objectives and output of the meeting could be achieved at the end of the two-day deliberation. He latter invited representatives of ACPC and the World Meteorological Organizations (WMO) to give their opening remarks.

In his opening remark, Dr James Murombedzi, Coordinator of ACPC, mentioned that the climate knowledge gaps in Africa remain large, and seek targeted but sustained capacity development interventions in the areas of climate science research, applications and policy in order to enhance scientific understanding of past, present, and future climate. For Africa, whose economies are sensitive to the impacts of climate change, climate research should provide accurate, timely, reliable and spatially relevant information to guide appropriate climate change actions. Climate research in Africa should also be demand-driven, responsive to the user needs, and framed in the context of human decision and sustainable development planning. However, the service delivery, knowledge frameworks and partnerships between public institutions, the private sector, civil society and vulnerable communities are being conducted in a fragmented manner.

Sadly, he noted that African researcher contributed about 1% of the world's research output although the number of papers produced by African researchers have doubled in just over a decade. With 13.4 per cent of the world's population, the continent is home to only 1.1 per cent of the world's scientific researchers. He further quoted the World Bank (2014) report that the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) contributes only 0.4 per cent of global expenditure in research and development (R&D) while it accounts for about 2.3 per cent of world GDP. Citations to SSA articles comprise a small but growing share of global citations, increasing from 0.06 - 0.16 per cent (2002/03) to 0.12-0.28 per cent (2012/13).

He reminded participants that the success of scientific research in Africa depends on the willingness and ability of African governments to invest in research. If invested properly, they will lead to a sustainable African workforce and infrastructure as well as address the concerns of all Africans. However, research funding in Africa are mostly:

- Numerous but small scaled, fragmented and uncoordinated;

- Responded to ad-hoc incidences such as health epidemic, which leads drawing of funds away from other research programs;
- Dominated by donor priorities over national priorities agenda/programs;
- Limited on basic-research funding for experienced scientists;
- Skewed towards health and agricultural development and less so on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) projects;
- Lacked mostly accountability; and
- Providing insufficient incentive for the development of new research and products in key actors, and others.

He stressed that the current funding schemes have both positive and negative outcomes on research and development, as most of these funds are not available in a public domain and/or available in a fragmented manner. Moreover, the research topics are mostly not focusing at bridging the link between the research and development. Hence, the role of Climate Research for Development (CR4D) cannot be overemphasized as it seeks to strengthen efforts in the fight against climate change by promoting and fostering demand-driven and participatory climate research initiatives in Africa. The operationalization of the ICP is, therefore, a step closer to the realization of the CR4D research agenda. As part of the ongoing operationalization of CR4D, the Secretariat is planning to constitute and launch the ICP in accordance with the founding statutes of the initiative. Attempts were made during the selection of ICP members, with a balanced representation from regional research institutes, regional climate centers (RCCs), higher academic institutions, development agencies, NGOs, Civil Society, Gender and Youth climate initiatives, and other key stakeholders in the climate enterprise.

The Institutional Collaboration Platform (ICP) chair, which is yet to be selected, will be part of the Oversight Board of CR4D. The roles of ICP include provision of strategic direction on the CR4D Agenda; reviews and endorsement of the budgets of CR4D; and provision of oversight in the operation of SAC and the ICP (including its membership). Based on the recommendations from the CR4D-SAC, the Oversight Board has now expanded its membership to include the Climate Change Directorate of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Directorate of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission (AUC), with the Oversight Board reporting to the Commissioner of the DREA. Hence, the members of Oversight Board will be composed of representatives from the following institutions/directorates:

- the ACPC (ClimDev-Africa Secretariat);
- the ICP chair;
- the AMCOMET Secretariat;
- the AMCOMET bureau chair;
- the AUC-DREA Director; and
- AfDB-Climate Change Director.

He also mentioned that the CR4D-SAC recommended the inclusion of GFCS, WCRP and SAC Co-Chairs to be the observing members of the Oversight Board. If the newly constituted Oversight Board accepted this recommendation, the ToR for Observers will be developed by the CR4D Secretariat.

He concluded his speech by emphasizing the significance of operationalization of ICP and hoped this will contribute to the realization of CR4D objectives. With this, he wished all members of the ICP a fruitful deliberation.

Mr. Mark Majodina, WMO Representative for Eastern and Southern Africa, delivered his opening speech on behalf of the WMO Secretary General, Prof Petteri Taalas, and the Dr. Joseph Mukabana, Director for Africa and Least Developed Countries. He started his remark by reminding participants on Africa's vulnerability to climate variability and change. A number of studies, lectures and presentations have demonstrated the socio-economic impacts of climate variability and change; and the reversals of economic gains could not be accepted. Consequently, WMO actively participated in organizing the Third World Climate Conference in September 2009, which yielded the Global Framework for Climate Services. This has also been the drive within WMO for the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) with the African Union. More and more African National Meteorological Services are expanding their scope into climate services, developing National Frameworks for Climate Services, and bringing in the academia, governmental departments, NGOs and the private sector into Climate Information Services (CIS) production and application.

Data collection and sharing, capacity building, research and collaboration with all relevant stakeholders are important components that are being emphasized by the WMO to its members. What has become crystal-clear is that there is no one party that can do all the work. Hence, the quality of products and services that meets the needs of users and society relies on synergy being built amongst institutions. Each institution has a role to play; each one has its strength and potential contribution. At the same time, the collaboration amongst different institutions needs to be harnessed to avoid unnecessary duplications, conflicts and the danger of leaving gaps in the process. Increasingly, development partners also look favorably on collaborative projects implemented at regional and multi-disciplinary scale. We, in the WMO therefore view this Institutional collaboration platform in very high regard and call for harnessing of all our efforts. We furthermore stress on greater user-involvement so that our efforts become completely responsive to the societal needs, as emphasized in the draft 5-years CR4D Strategy Plan. This ICP meeting is as a direct result of different CR4D governing bodies' enormous work and careful considerations.

In his opinion, CR4D is now entering a new phase of implementation. This will, however, require CR4D to be more action-oriented, proactive so that it can mobilize resources, produce and deliver tangible results that will truly take on the opportunities presented by climate variability and change. The Institutional Collaboration Platform is essential for ensuring alignment between the

various stakeholders. In this regard, he wished to refresh participants' memory on the recent AMCOMET Hydromet Forum of September 2017 where Member States concluded with these important commitments:

- a) Promote national and regional ownership for the modernization of national meteorological and hydrological services for delivery of more accurate, timely and reliable weather, water and climate services to accelerate socio-economic development;
- b) Strengthen climate and disaster resilience;
- c) Ensure that the modernization of hydromet services is included among the priorities in respective National Action Plans; and
- d) Work within respective governments to ensure sustained resourcing of this modernization program.

On the GFCS side, what is critical for research is to address user needs. However, to address user needs, there must be segregation of users in terms of policy and applications. From the policy side, we are dealing with issues such as the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sendai Framework, etc. Specifically, there is a need to link with the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other objectives. From the applications side, we are talking of services in the priority areas of the GFCS and other few additional or differing priorities by some countries.

He continued his remark by highlighting some of the key messages. In this endeavor, the user needs should remain central and this body should be responsive to that. Secondly, I would stress on stepping up the gear now that the conception phase is nearing completion, there is a need to be action-oriented, aligned and take advantage of the available resources and deliver concrete outputs. The risks associated with the implementation of the draft CR4D Strategic Plan document, are valid and will need to be monitored carefully and risk mitigation measures introduced, in order to ensure success of this great initiative. He closed his opening remark by saying that in this launch of the CR4D-ICP, members are presented with an opportunity to make a meaningful and visible contribution to humankind. Hence, active and constructive participations of all parties are crucial to achieve CR4D mission. "We dare not fail".

III. Presentation of CR4D

The acting Coordinator of CR4D Secretariat, Mr Frank Rutabingwa, gave a brief presentation on CR4D background from its time of conception at the African Climate conference 2013 to date. He went further to talk on the key achievements of CR4D including establishment of the CR4D governance bodies; launching of Sub-seasonal to Seasonal (S2S) projects in Central and West Africa; establishment of the regional climate research partnership in east and southern Africa; and the development of the draft strategic plan (2018-2022) encompassing the key thematic

areas, impacts, information translation and communication and engagement with policy development and decision communities.

IV. Nomination of the ICP Chair

The chair of the session, Prof. Amadou Gaye, co-chair of SAC, said that members of the ICP are drawn from different sectors of the climate change community across the African continent based on their long-standing record of their work on climate change as well as a balanced geographic representation. He also reminded participants about the nomination criteria for institutions to serve as chair of the ICP. The institution should have:

- Background in climate change research and applications;
- Readiness to federate and help enforce the CR4D agenda;
- Greater recognition within Africa and beyond; and
- Willingness to advocate the cause for CR4D.

In order to facilitate and ease the voting process, participants were requested to give a brief introduction about their respective institutions in accordance to the above criteria. It was later agreed to consider additional vetting criterion. The nominated institutions should have a pan-African mandate to serve the interest of all African states.

The session chair requested Mr. Yosef Amha, a researcher at CR4D Secretariat and facilitator of the meeting, to give explanation on the total number of invited institutions, responses received, and institutions attending the meeting. He explained that about 32 institutions were invited under permanent, voting and observing membership categories where the CR4D Secretariat received 21 letter of acceptance. However, only 17 institutions able to attend this launching meeting. The other four could not make it because of other previous commitments.

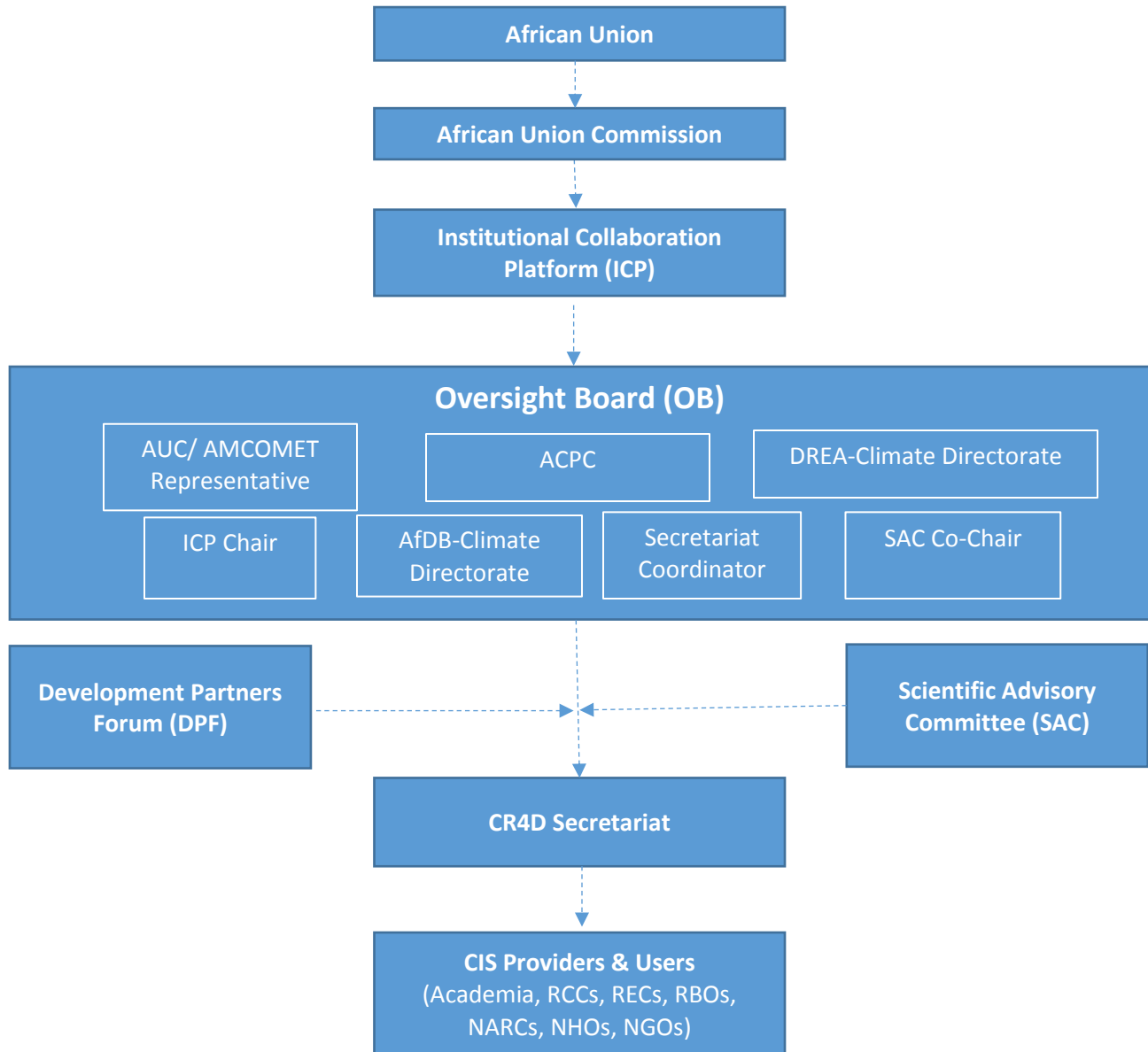
The voting procedure was held in two phases: (i) voting on the creation of a vice-chair position and (ii) voting on the ICP chair [and vice-chair, if agreed]. The chair, however, told the participated institutions that only permanent and voting institutions are eligible to vote (14 out of 17 attended). The voting was also agreed to be held in open (EXPLAIN- OPEN WHAT?).

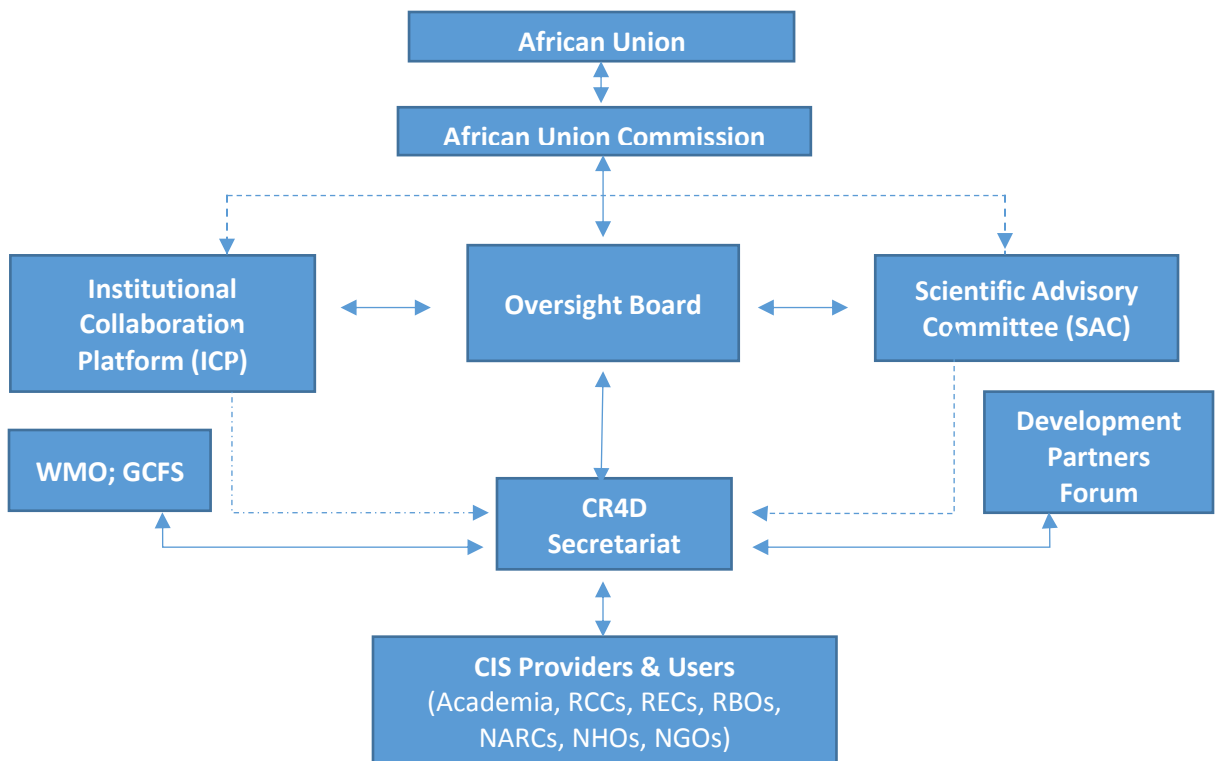
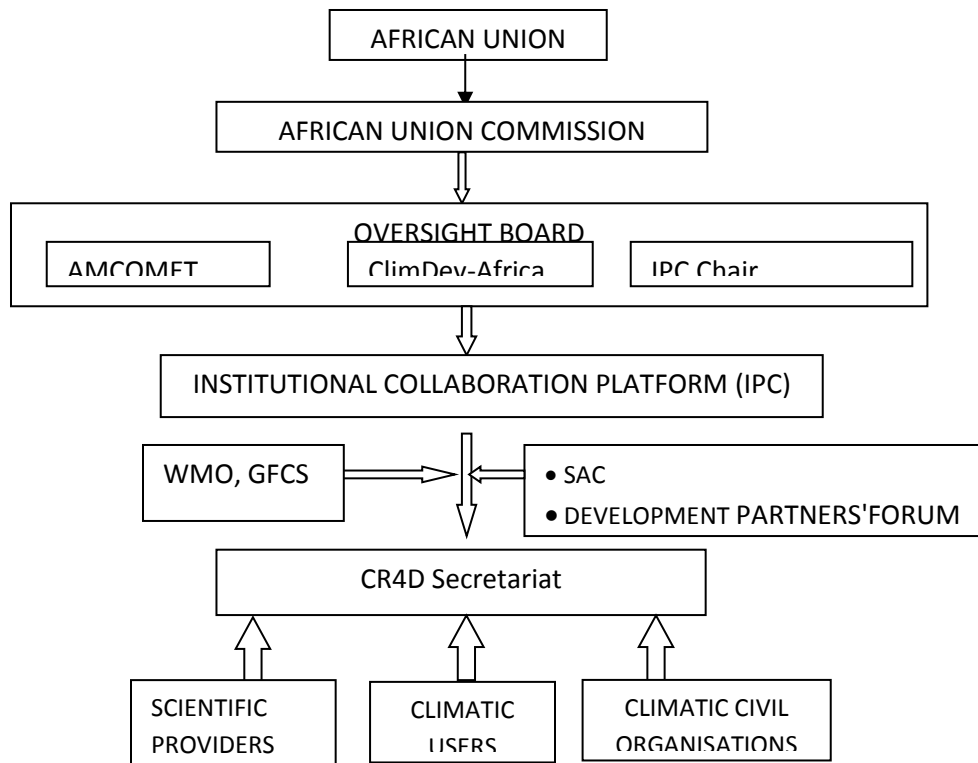
Majority of the members (12) voted in favor of having a vice-chair position, with 2 votes abstained. Participants later suggested three institutions for the chair and vice-chair positions. The Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), African Academy of Science (AAS) and African Center of Meteorology Application for Development (ACMAD) were nominated as they are institutions with a pan-African mandate. However, ACMAD withdraws its nomination. The voting outcome on chair position showed that AAS elected with 76 per cent vote while PACJA got 24 per cent vote. However, PACJA had a 100 per cent vote for the vice-chair of ICP.

V. Reviewing of CR4D-ICP TOR

Representatives of AAS (Dr. Benjamin Gyampoh) and PACJA (Mr. Mitika Mwenda) had then handed the following session focusing on reviewing of CR4D-ICP Term of Reference (ToR).

Looking at the TOR, participants raised issues on the governance bodies of CR4D. It was agreed that the functional and the governance structures should be made clear to avoid confusion. The following three-governance structure suggested to be considered by the Secretariat and later endorsed by the oversight board.





VI. Reviewing of the CR4D draft strategic plan document

Participants agreed on the contents of the 5-years draft Strategic Plan document including the executive summary, vision and mission, gaps/challenges, CR4D structural goals, knowledge frontiers, etc. However, they made some revisions:

- The core values to be reduced it from ten to five;
- Narrative on the key achievements to be part of the annex while SWAT analysis to be part of the main body text (section 4); and
- The SWOT analysis to accommodate challenge and gaps.

VII. Recommendations

Members of the ICP called for:

- Sending a formal endorsement letter to the chair and vice-chair of the ICP (by the CR4D oversight board);
- Oversight board to endorse the RECs as the voting member than observing member;
- Greater private sector participation in the ICP;
- Clear structural and functional organograms between different governing bodies of CR4D;
- Enhanced capacity of CR4D Secretariat and ACPC, as one of the members of the oversight board and the host of the CR4D secretariat, has to play a greater role;
- Finalization of the CR4D strategy (2018-2022) and development of the accompanying implementation plan. The co-chairs of SAC, the chair and vice-chair of ICP are suggested to work with the Secretariat on the preparation of the implementation plan;
- Quick and sustained mobilization of fund from development partners;
- Strong communication among different organs of CR4D and the CR4D secretariat is expected to play a leading role. The CR4D knowledge products should be communicated with producers and users of CIS using various outlets including through publications, information notes, brochures and flyers. Moreover, users and producers should be engaged in CR4D conferences, workshops and meetings;
- Member institutions to support CR4D events at CCDA, COP and other events;
- Vibrant CR4D website; and
- Quick launching of the CR4D 5-years strategy plan.

VIII. Closing remark

The representative of PACJA and the vice-chair of ICP, acknowledged member institutions for their contributions, deliberations and approval of issues discussed. He went ahead to inform it is the responsibility of the ICP members to work hard and use the up-coming COP 24 to make a showcase for CR4D for better visibility and impacts. However, he said that the individual institution that made up the ICP has its own programs and the CR4D Secretariat should consider this fact.

The chair of the ICP and representative of AAS concluded his closing remarks by saying - there is a need for all organs of the CR4D to work closely in order to ensure continuity and success of the program.

In his remarks, Mr Amadou Gaye also thanked all members for their attention and participation. He then called for the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), as the host of the meeting, to formally declare the close of the meeting.

Mr Frank Rutabingwa, as a representative of ACPC, said climate change is both an opportunity and challenge for the development Africa and much is expected from the initiatives like CR4D. He went ahead to say funding in Africa emanates mostly from the decisions of the Head of States, which requires all CR4D governing organs of CR4D to advocate about CR4D agenda in high-level meetings including the African Union Summit. He expressed his confidence on the ICP members and will anticipate successes if all CR4D organs worked together. Finally, he thanked members of the ICP and SAC for their brilliant contributions and deliberations and wished them a safe journey back to their destinations.

Institutional Collaboration Platform (ICP) Meeting

Date: 7-8 December 2017

Place: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Agenda

Time	Events	Chair
07 December 2017		
08:30-09:30	Arrival and Registration	<i>Organizers</i>
09:30-10:00	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. James Murombedzi, OIC, ACPC - Dr. Joseph Mukabana, WMO/AMCOMET 	<i>Mr. Johnson Nkem, ACPC</i>
10:00-10:45	CR4D: Background and milestones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Frank Rutabingwa, ACPC 	
10:45-11:15	Group photo and Coffee break	
11:15-11:45	Nomination and election of CR4D-ICP chair	<i>Prof. Amadou Gaye, UCAD, SAC co-chair</i>
11:45-13:00	Reviewing of CR4D-ICP ToR	<i>ICP-chair</i>
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-16:00	Reviewing of the draft 5-years CR4D strategic plan document <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purpose of Strategic Plan - Framework for Implementation - Vision, Mission and Core Values - Issues, Gaps and Challenges 	<i>Prof. Amadou Gaye, UCAD, SAC co-chair</i>
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	
16:30-17:30	Reviewing of the draft 5-years CR4D strategic plan document CR4D Strategy 2018-2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic Goals - CR4D Knowledge Frontiers - Structural Goals for Enabling the Research - Risk Assessment 	<i>Prof. Amadou Gaye, UCAD, SAC co-chair</i>

Time	Events	Chair
08 December 2017		
09:00-11:00	<i>Finalizing the review of CR4D 2018-2022 Strategic Plan</i>	<i>Prof. Amadou Gaye, UCAD, SAC co-chair</i>
11:00-11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:30-12:30	<i>Finalizing the review of CR4D 2018-2022 Strategic Plan</i>	<i>Prof. Amadou Gaye, UCAD, SAC co-chair</i>
12:30-13:00	<i>AOB</i>	<i>CR4D Secretariat</i>
13:00-13:15	<i>Closing Remark</i>	<i>Dr. Joseph Mukabana Mr. James Murombedzi</i>
<i>13:15-</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
<i>Rapporteur and meeting facilitator: Mr. Yosef Amha, CR4D Secretariat, ACPC</i>		

IX. List of Participants

No.	Name	Affiliation	City, Country	Email address
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