
WISER Pan Africa

Concept note**Expert Group Meeting to Validate a Study on the Application of
Meteorological/Climate Data Sharing Policy (*WMO Resolution 40*) in Africa****10-11 July 2018****Venue: Dakar, Senegal****Background**

Climate Information Services (CIS), consisting of generation, packaging and delivery of weather and climate data and its subsequent uptake is critical to support climate adaptation and resilient development (UN-ECA 2011). CIS can describe historical, current and future weather and climate conditions and can entail future predictions on daily, monthly, seasonal or decadal timescales and projections at multi-decadal and centennial scales (WMO 2014a). It also considers their impact on natural and human systems. In Africa, traditional CIS developers/providers are the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) whose activities are supported by a network of weather stations taking measurements of, among other parameters, precipitation and temperature under the guidance of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). As there are various types of CIS, there are also various types of providers ranging from national institutes to regional research centers as well consultancy firms, national associations, insurance companies and private sector.

CIS providers do not necessarily generate their own weather and/or climate data. They can make use of available data from other owners/providers and add value (knowledge and expertise) to develop and provide the information needed by specific users (Feinstein and Llovet 2014). The data needed to monitor and predict weather and climate, to develop tools and generate products in the framework of CIS are mostly owned by the NMHSs. In addition, the monitoring and forecasting of severe weather events (i.e. extreme events such as tropical cyclones, Mesoscale convective systems and droughts) as well as the development of tools requires data beyond the national boundaries (WMO 2014b). Finally, research centers and the private sector have opportunity to develop tools and add substantial value to the data generated by the NMHSs. Data sharing standards and procedures should be developed to regulate exchange of data between countries as well as between members, regional research centers and non-governmental organizations. To this effect, the WMO Resolution 40 entitled “*policy and practice for the exchange of meteorological and related data and products*” regulates international data sharing.

The WMO resolution 40 was put in place to secure free and unrestricted international exchange of meteorological/climate data to permit all members to generate forecasts and warnings for the provision of services. Because members are defined as countries, the resolution applies not only to NMHSs but also extends to national and intergovernmental weather networks. This resolution

acknowledges the importance of sharing data as a key to understand climate, study extreme climate and severe weather events to provide early warning and in general to help communities adapt to climate change by providing climate services. It also highlights the dependence of the research and education communities (many of which provide climate services) on access to meteorological and related data and products but also the existence of a trend towards the initiation and increase of commercial activities of many NMHSs and the private sector.

Hence, the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) through the Pan-African component of the DFID funded WISER project reviewed the application of WMO resolution 40 in the African context to support Climate Information Services (CIS) development for sustainable climate change adaptation and resilient development of the continent.

Objective

The overall objective of the EGM meeting is to review a document on the application of hydro-meteorological (including climate) data sharing standards and procedures in Africa, based on WMO Resolution 40, to facilitate CIS production, uptake and use in the continent. The specific objectives are:

- To review current practices of data exchange under the WMO Resolution 40 in the context of CIS uptake and use in development planning;
- To identify challenges to data sharing and provide recommendations on data sharing to promote use of hydro-meteorological data in supporting CIS uptake in the African continent;
- Understand data sharing practices currently in use at NHMSs and RCCs;
- To identify areas that could be used to improve WMO Resolution 40.

Output

- A comprehensive report on the extent of use, challenges and practices in the application of WMO resolution 40 in hydro-meteorological and climate data sharing in Africa.

References

- Feinstein NO, Llovet I (2014): Assessment of Climate Services work by the CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). CCAFS report. Copenhagen, Denmark. Available online at: www.ccafs.cgiar.org
- WMO (2014): Annex to the Implementation Plan of the Global Framework for Climate Services – Observing and Monitoring Component. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.wmo.int/gfcs/implementation-plan>
- UNECA (2013): Climate science, information and services in Africa status, gaps and needs. ClimDev Africa (Policy brief). No. 1, 4 pp. Addis Ababa. © UN. ECA. <http://repository.uneca.org/handle/10855/23138>

Tentative Agenda

Expert Group Meeting to Validate a Study on the Application of Meteorological/Climate Data Sharing Policy (WMO Resolution 40) in Africa

Time	Session	Responsible
Day 1		
09:00-09:15	Opening Session	ACPC
09:15-09:30	Welcome remarks	ACMAD, WMO
09:30-09:45	Objectives of the meeting and introduction of participants	ACPC
09:45-10:00	Introduction of participants	
10:00-10:30	Tea/Coffee and Group photo	
10:30-11:30	Presentation of the report	Sylla Bamba, WASCAL
11:30-12:30	General Discussion	
12:30-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-15:00	Case study presentations on hydro-meteorological data sharing practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMHSs 	TBD
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break	
15:30-17:00	Case study presentations on hydro-meteorological data sharing practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCCs 	
Time	Session	Responsible
Day 2		
09:00-10:30	Breakout Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current practices in data sharing – the WMO Resolution 40 • Application of the Resolution • Best Practices / success stories • Barriers to data sharing 	TBD
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	

11:00-12:00	Reports from breakout sessions	
12:00-12:30	Closing Session	ACPC