

WISER Pan Africa

WISER RCOFs knowledge exchange workshop

22 March 2018, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Concept Note

Introduction

The Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER)¹ was conceived by DfID in 2015 to stimulate the uptake of climate information by policy makers and vulnerable groups including the youth and women. The rationale behind the programme is Africa's increasingly variable weather and climate which threatens development. Agriculture and food security, water, energy, infrastructure, and health are already sensitive to weather related shocks. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns and climate-related disasters (especially floods and droughts) will erode gains in poverty reduction and set back economic development.

The WISER programme has two components:

- (1) A pan-African programme focussing on improvement of the policy and enabling environment for weather and climate services (PEEC). This component is implemented by the Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC).
- (2) A regional programme primarily focussing on the East Africa region (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) (WISER-EA) aimed at improving the quality and relevance of weather and climate information and supporting its uptake and use.

Regional climate outlook forums (RCOFs)

RCOFs are organized by Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), Global Climate Centres (GCC) and development partners. The aim of RCOFs is to provide consensus regional seasonal climate outlooks for applications in climate sensitive socioeconomic sectors for decision support for resilience building and sustainable development (ICPAC, 2016).

Africa has several RCOFs, spread across the continent. The IGAD climate prediction and application center (ICPAC) based in Nairobi, Kenya coordinates the East Africa greater horn of Africa climate outlook forum (GHACOF), while the SADC Climate Services Centre (SADC-CSC), in Gaborone, Botswana is responsible for the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum. The African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD) coordinates five RCOFs.

¹ For more information on WISER, navigate to <http://www.uneca.org/wiser>

Regional Association I (Africa), through Resolution 4 (XV-RA I) and Resolution 7 (RA I-16), decided to establish an RCC in each of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

Procedures and practices applied by the RCOFs to both produce consensus seasonal forecasts in Africa vary. While most of the RCOFs face similar challenges, especially related to engaging stakeholders, dissemination and uptake of the seasonal forecasts they produce, some RCOFs such as the GHACOF have been operational for many years and thus have lessons and experiences that can help other RCOFs avoid ‘reinventing the wheel’.

To ease coordination of Climate Information Services activities in Africa, under the auspices of the Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER), ACPC identified the need to bring together African RCCs to discuss the RCOFs in the continent.

Objectives

The purpose of the RCOFs workshop is to provide a platform where the RCOFs weather experts from the RCCs in Africa can have an exchange of knowledge, share lessons, best practices and experiences. The outcomes of the meeting will enable RCCs to enhance their capabilities in producing forecasts, organizing RCOFs, engaging stakeholders and ensuring effective dissemination that makes a difference to end user communities.

Expected Results

1. Compilation of best practices in producing and disseminating consensus seasonal weather forecasts.
2. Knowledge exchange, sharing of lessons and experiences.
3. Establishment of an RCOFs expert network that facilitates better partnerships between RCOFs in the continent.

Structure

The RCOFs knowledge exchange workshop will be held on the 22 March 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The event will consist of presentations by each of the RCOFs in attendance, followed by a reflection on the procedures, lessons, challenges and opportunities experienced in the sub-region.

The last session will be dedicated to the brainstorming, formulation and agreement on good practices identified during the presentations and knowledge sharing undertaken over the single day event.