

Climate Research for Development (CR4D) in Africa



Climate Research for
Development in Africa

Minutes

of

*The Third Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting
(SAC)*

Date: 9-10 October 2017

Venue: UNCC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

I. Introduction

- 1.1. Science-informed and evidence-based policy, planning and practices are essential to ensuring African development is sustainable and more resilient to the negative impacts of climate change. Hence, there is an increasing need for tailored weather and climate services, adaptation strategies, sustained policy support that will reduce Africa's vulnerability to the vagaries of severe weather and extreme climate events. However, the major challenges facing the African climate research include lack of a critical mass of trained scientists with requisite expertise in understanding and predicting the climate driving mechanisms across temporal and spatial scales and inadequacy of observational networks for meteorological, hydrological and related environmental data. Further compounding the problems is a weak communication and computational capacity, as well as inadequate climate database management system.
- 1.2. The Climate Research for Development (CR4D) in Africa initiative promotes and nurtures a long-term collaborative African climate research agenda and related activities. The research should be driven by user information needs for decision support and strengthened through interdisciplinary co-design that enables the mainstreaming of climate information into policy for contingency planning of climate sensitive socio-economic activities and decision making processes. The CR4D initiative is envisaged to support the up-scaling of existing and new initiatives, fostering international collaboration and joint planning between projects and other initiatives. However, this ambitious research initiative requires close collaboration within the Africa climate research community, across existing projects, and forging linkages with new regional and international partners.
- 1.3. To this end, the CR4D Joint Oversight Board and Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting, which was held from 20 to 21 October 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, recommended the establishment of a sub-committee to develop a draft 5-years CR4D strategic plan. The sub-committee consisting of Dr. Arame Tall, Dr. Boram Lee, Prof. Bruce Hewitson, Dr. Ernest Afiesimamo, Ms. Josephine Wilson, Dr. Judith Omumbo, Prof. Richard Anyah and Yosef Amha met in Geneva, Switzerland, from 3rd to 4th of July 2017, and developed a draft strategic plan in accordance with the ACC 2013 recommendations, CR4D SAC meetings outcomes, and other broader emerging issues on climate change and development in Africa.
- 1.4. The draft CR4D strategic plan sets out the research priorities for the next five-year period (2018-2022) in pursuance of advancing African climate research frontiers and provides a roadmap for mainstreaming climate information into policy and decision-making processes. The draft strategic plan also provides a strategic guidance for key institutions and African scientists to nurture innovative research ideas into pan-African research activities. Furthermore, the draft strategic plan was crafted to provide the basis of multi-institutional and multi-stakeholder collaborative efforts to mobilize expertise and resources for user-inspired climate science research that informs climate change policy and

sustainable development planning in Africa. In this two-day meeting, the participants thoroughly reviewed the draft strategic plan and produced a document ready for a wider circulation.

II. Objectives

This meeting specifically:

- Reviewed and adopted the minutes of the joint SAC and Oversight Board (OB) meeting that was held on 20-21 October 2016;
- Reviewed and finalized the draft 5-years CR4D strategic plan document;
- Defined the research priorities for the WISER-funded CR4D Grant Management Mechanism.
- Review of the minutes of CR4D Oversight Board held on 11 August 2017 relating to the recommendations of SAC

III. Expected Outputs:

- A meeting report;
- A CR4D 5-year draft strategic plan document

IV. Opening remark

On behalf of James Murombedzi, Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the African Climate Policy Centre, Mr. Thierry Amoussougbo delivered a welcome remark to the meeting participants. He expressed the CR4D Secretariat's gratitude to the participants for accepting the invitation to convene the Third CR4D SAC meeting. He stated that the availability of climate information services, including timely delivery of accurate climate information for use in development planning and practice, will be critical in keeping Africa on a steady economic growth trajectory. In view of this, the CR4D strategic plan document should set out research priorities for the next five-year period (2018-2022) in pursuance of advancing African climate research frontiers and provide a roadmap for mainstreaming climate information into policy and decision-making processes. He underscored the crucial role of a strategic plan by recalling the urgency with which the CR4D Secretariat organized the writing-shop in Geneva, Switzerland, from 3rd to 4th of July 2017 to facilitate its development by a sub-committee. He therefore emphasized the task for this meeting, where participants were expected to review the draft strategic plan document and develop a version that would be ready for a wider circulation. He finally wished all participants every success in their deliberation as well as a very pleasant stay in Addis Ababa.

V. Review and Adoption of the Minutes of the Joint SAC and Oversight Board Meeting

The meeting participants reviewed the minutes of the joint SAC-OB meeting of 20-21 Oct 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and adopted the contents with minor changes. However, in matters arising, they stated concern on the lack of progress on some of the previous recommendations that included the following:

- Delay in filling the SAC members: the meeting had requested the SAC co-chairs and the Secretariat to identify three candidates who could satisfy the

existing criteria and submit potential names to the Oversight Board for endorsement. The deadline was 30th November 2017. The potential candidate was supposed to be a female, social scientist and preferably located in North Africa, Africa-SIDS or Central Africa.

- Delay in renewing the expired MoU between CR4D partners: participants requested ACPC and WMO/AMCOMET to renew the MoU by considering the current and future conditions in the strategic plan document as the continuous delay negatively affects the operationalization of the CR4D organs.
- Lack of a clear and sustained communication: although there is some progress, a sustained communication of information flow should be maintained between different organs of CR4D for effective and efficient operations.
- Failure to continue CR4D backed study on 1.5/2 degree: while the meeting praised the sub-committee members who developed the white-paper, they recognized a lack of progress from the Secretariat side in initiating a follow-up study. Hence, CR4D Secretariat was tasked to mobilize African scientists to study the impact of 1.5/2 °C warming by addressing regional impacts.

VI. Draft Strategy

The meeting participants applauded the members of the sub-committee who were tasked to develop the draft 5-years CR4D strategic plan document in Geneva from 3-4 July 2017. The meeting reviewed the contents of the draft strategic document and provided substantial inputs. Specifically, the meeting decided on the following:

- The preface would be written by the co-Chairs;
- The overall CR4D governance structure diagram to be amended. i.e., the African climate research network and the blue circle to be deleted while AUC to be inserted between OB and AU;
- The SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats/challenges) analysis to be attached to the document as annex;
- The glossary section to be included in the document;
- The Secretariat to take an editorial responsibility while WMO/AMCOMET to assist the Secretariat in reviewing the Strategic plan contents using its expert;
- The Grant Management Mechanism to be generic and should not be detailed in the document;
- Documents such as communication; financing and fund raising; monitoring & evaluation and reporting; and observing systems, to be developed by another groups with appropriate competencies. The CR4D Secretariat shall take the responsibility for action.

VII. Climate Research for Development (CR4D): Update since September 2016

Yosef Amha summarized the work accomplished by the CR4D Secretariat since September 2016 as follows:

- Convening a joint SAC and Oversight Board meeting (20-21 Oct. 2016);
- Completing a comprehensive mapping exercise on institutions, initiatives, and experts in Africa;
- Completing the development of the interactive google maps;
- Organizing events in the AMCOMET-HydroMet Forum (12-14 Sept 2017) where CR4D was recognized as an African initiative for climate research
http://www.wmo.int/amcomet/sites/default/files/field/doc/events/decisions_amcomet_bureau_14_sept_-_en.pdf?utm_source=New+AMCOMET+List+2017&utm_campaign=14885a4f8e-AMCOMET+Newsletter+008&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_097b0ebd93-14885a4f8e-229694549,
- Completing the Sub-seasonal to Seasonal (S2S) pilot research for Central and West Africa regions;
- Contributing in the development of ToRs to recruit an institution that conducts assessment on potential institutions (to be a Grant Manager),
- Organizing a write-shop in Geneva, Switzerland, and involved in the development of the draft CR4D 5-year strategic plan document;
- Contributing in the development of WISER phase II project proposal and secured funds for the secretariat function and the research grant;
- Developing jointly the tender documentations (*ToR, assessment framework and scoring outline,...*) for the Grant Manager.

NB. The links for the above documents can be accessed in www.climdev-africa.org/cr4d website.

VIII. Defining the Research Priorities for the WISER-Funded CR4D Research Grant

The meeting acknowledged the ardent support provided by DFID-WISER to the CR4D Secretariat. The meeting further identified major thematic areas of research for Grant Management Mechanism that could be further developed into “calls” by the Grant Managing Institution. These thematic areas are grouped into the following categories:

1. *Foundational climate science*: focusing on improved understanding of the underpinning drivers and dynamics of climate variability and change in Africa; improving forecast and climate prediction skills; developing robust climate change projections for Africa at multiple scale; and better prediction and attribution of extremes of climate and impacts.
2. *Impacts, information, translation, communication*: focusing on enhanced added-value in sub-seasonal to seasonal predictions; enhanced understanding and communication of climate impacts across five priority GFCS areas{ agriculture, water, health, DRR, and energy}, as well as migration, urbanization, marine and coastal zones, etc.; improved metrics and analytics for evaluation and validation of skills and

uncertainties in forecasting and projecting future climate and impacts, including understanding communication theory, barriers and opportunities.

3. Engagement with policy, development and decision communities: focusing on improved assessment of the uptake, application and user value of climate and impact information by stakeholders and enhanced capacity for co-production including trans disciplinary research.

In spite of the above thematic classification of research areas, the meeting recognized that “*it is not possible to define a specific research topic for the call*” right now; but the meeting promised to identify the topic for the “call” once agreement is reached between the members of Project Executive Committee (PEC) on the thematic area.

NB. PEC included representative from the Secretariat, DFID and SAC.

IX. Recommendations/Actions to be Followed

To ensure the sustained functioning of the CR4D activities and in order to maximize the effective implementation of the CR4D agenda in a timely fashion, the SAC participants in the meeting urged the Oversight Board to:

- a. Take appropriate actions (particularly in the recruitment of the CR4D Coordinator) and bolster the Secretariat’s capacity for effective implementation of robust research across the continent. The coordinator shall be a well-recognized scientist/expert with strong track records in fundamental climate science area (see VIII-1) to translate the CR4D strategy into concrete implementation plan/activities.
- b. Extend the current contract of the CR4D Researcher and (if possible) explore options to secure a fixed-term position in the Secretariat. There is also a need for mobilized resources at the ACPC that is dedicated to, and proportional for the Secretariat function needs for supporting the implementation of research actions.
- c. Clarify and substantiate the statement, “*ACPC is the CR4D Secretariat*” and “*CR4D Secretariat is hosted at the ACPC*” taking into consideration the decisions at COP 20 at Marrakech (Morocco) and at the 3rd Session of AMCOMET in Praia (Cabo Verde) that CR4D Secretariat should be a distinct entity; but of course be connected to ACPC. The literal meaning of these statements are different for SAC.
- d. Establish and maintain the CR4D own website in a responsive and flexible manner, with it's own domain name, to enhance visibility and identity within the continent and international arena and to effectively enhance the engagement with the research community. The current domain is embedded under ClimDev-Africa and is hardly accessible in web searches. Given the CR4D initiative is an outcome of ACC 2013 and founding partners go beyond ClimDev, the OB/Secretariat should allocate resources to

develop and maintain the CR4D website. The meeting noted that the domain name www.cr4d.org is currently free.

- e. Resource mobilization / fund-raising, as mentioned in the response of OB report, is not the responsibility of SAC but is vested on the founding partners of CR4D. However, SAC may advise the OB on how to address CR4D funding constraints and could propose on the establishment of a functional committee working on resource mobilization.
- f. Encourage the Secretariat to share the CR4D related reports/documents among members to have SAC's footprint.
- g. Oversee the physical and financial performances of the CR4D Secretariat activities under WISER Phase II project as DFID introduced performance based payment system.
- h. Help the initiation of CR4D backed study on 1.5/2 degrees on the African continent.
- i. Include a representative of climate-sensitive gender issues in CR4D's Institutional Collaboration Platform (ICP) to be permanent member of the committee that is dedicated to the promotion of gender equality.
- j. The meeting agreed that, the total number of ICP members should be increased gradually than starting with the top number at fifty (50).
- k. Accept the logo on the www.climdev-africa.org/cr4d website to be the CR4D logo. However, effort should be made to improve the resolution. Funds allowing, a new logo could be designed, through tender;
- l. Instruct the Secretariat to insert the CR4D logo in all CR4D documents.

X. Closing Remarks

- Dr. Joseph R. Mukabana, Director Offices for Africa and Least Developed Countries & AMCOMET Secretariat, thanked all SAC members for their contributions in developing the draft 5-years CR4D strategic plan document. He commended the Secretariat for its achievements given the existing resources (human, money) limitations. He urged the SAC members to provide technical and scientific advice on how the CR4D should be structured to meet the current and future gaps. He believed that climate science and related research are crucial issues in Africa's development and need to get focus by the CR4D strategy. In this regard, he acknowledged the sub-committee for developing the draft document addressing research gaps in the continent. He also promised to help the Secretariat in cleaning-up the draft document with the help of WMO. Finally, he wished each of the participant a safe journey back home.
- Dr. Judith Omumbo, co-Chair of SAC, acknowledged the CR4D Secretariat for convening the SAC meeting. She also acknowledged DFID for funding the CR4D Secretariat through WISER project. Finally, on behalf of SAC members,

she commended the efforts made by Yosef Amha in organizing a successful meeting.

There being no other matters, the meeting ended at 1:30pm

XI. Meeting Agenda

Time	Events	Chair
09 October 2017		
09:00-09:30	Opening Remark - James Murombedzi, OiC ACPC - Dr. Joseph Mukabana, Director, WMO	Dr. Judith Omumbo (SAC co-chair)
09:30-10:30	Review and adopt the minutes of the Joint SAC and Oversight Board Meeting that was held 20-21 October 2016 (Yosef Amha, CR4D Secretariat)	
10:30-11:00	Group photo and Coffee break	
11:00-13:00	Review and finalize the draft 5-years CR4D strategic plan document (developed by SAC appointed sub-committee) - Purpose of Strategic Plan - Framework for Implementation - Vision, Mission and Core Values - Issues, Gaps and Challenges	Dr. Judith Omumbo (SAC co-chair)
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-18:00	Review and finalize the draft 5-years CR4D strategic plan document (Participants) CR4D Strategy 2018-2022 - Strategic Goals - CR4D Knowledge Frontiers - Structural Goals for Enabling the Research - Risk Assessment	Dr. Judith Omumbo (SAC co-chair)
19:00-	Cultural dinner	
10 Oct 2017		
Time	Events	Chair
09:00-11:00	Finalizing the CR4D 2018-2022 Strategic Plan (Participants)	Dr. Ernest Afiesimamo
11:00-11:30	Coffee break	
11:30-12:15	CR4D Secretariat progress report since September 2016 (Yosef Amha, CR4D Secretariat)	Dr. Judith Omumbo (SAC co-chair)
12:15-12:40	Define the research priorities for the WISER-funded CR4D grant management mechanism (Participants)	

Time	Events	Chair
09 October 2017		
12:40-13:00	<i>Closing Remark (Dr. Joseph Mukabana, WMO)</i>	
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00-16.00	<i>Invitation to participate in the panel discussion on the implication of USA withdrawal from the Paris Agreement</i>	<i>Dr. James Murombedzi</i>

XII. List of Meeting Participants

No.	Name	Affiliation
1	Dr. Joseph Mukabana	WMO/AMCOMET, Geneva, Switzerland
2	Prof. Bruce Hewitson	University of Cape Town, South Africa
3	Prof. Opha Pauline Dube	University of Botswana , Gaborone
4	Dr. Oluyede Ajayi	CTA, Amsterdam, Netherlands
5	Prof. Laban Ogallo	ICPAC/UNDP DRR Project Coordinator
6	Dr. Judith Omumbo	Kenya Medical Research Institute, Nairobi-Kenya
7	Prof. Cush Ngonzo-Luweso	CGIAR, IWMI, Accra, Ghana
8	Prof. Nouredin Gaaloul	Ministry of Water Resources, Tunis-Tunisia
9	Prof. Richard Anyah	Connecticut State University, USA
10	Dr. Ashraf Zakey	Government of Egypt, Cairo Egypt
11	Dr. Ernest Afiesimama	WMO/AMCOMET, Geneva, Switzerland
12	James Murombedzi	ACPC-UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
13	Mr. Frank Rutabingwa	ACPC-UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
14	Yosef Amha	ACPC-UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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