United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Climate Research for Development in Africa

WISER

ACPC African Climate Policy Centre

Concept Note
for
Climate Research for Development in Africa (CR4D) Research and Its Application for Development Side-Event

26 February 2020 (13:00-14:30)
Chipala Island 5 Room, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Background

The Climate Research for Development (CR4D) is an African-led initiative supported by partnership between the 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) to strengthen links between climate science research and climate information needs in support development planning in Africa. CR4D is the outcome of the African Climate Conference 2013 (ACC-2013) 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 of ACC (2013) recommended the establishment of an African climate research agenda for climate services and development and officially launched in Cape Verde by the Third Session of AMCOMET (February 2015).

Following the establishment of the CR4D governing bodies (i.e., the Oversight Board (OB), the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Institutional Collaboration Platform (ICP), the ECA-ACPC partnered with the African Academy of Sciences (The AAS) and DFID under the WISER program to implement and manage small but potentially scalable research grant mechanism. Consequently, the CR4D initiative has matured to a level where it granted the first cohort of 21 post-doctoral research grantees from Benin, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Namibia, Uganda, Kenya, Senegal and Zimbabwe in June 2019 under the foundational climate science, climate change impacts and policy/advocacy knowledge frontiers.

Justification for the side-event

Climate research in Africa is fragmented and are not mainly demand-driven, responsive to the user needs, and be situated within the contexts of Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. Hence, the intensity and frequency of disruptions in natural and socioeconomic systems caused by climate change require African-led demand-driven researches in the areas of mitigation, adaptation, resilience building, as well as capitalizing on emerging opportunities especially for trade. For instance, by harnessing climate information and services for decision-makers, the agriculture sector will be better placed to provide food for a more crowded and increasingly urban world. Similarly, through trade interventions, we can facilitate the movement of food from places of excess to places where they are most needed and thereby significantly cut back on food losses, lower the cost of food importation incurred annually to address food and nutrition security, and enhance timely response to aid supplies during disasters. The CR4D initiative is, therefore, representing a paradigm shift to deal with climate change and development in the continent by integrating Africa-wide climate researches to deliver on end users priority needs. It could also play a critical role in mobilizing African climate researchers around a unified climate research agenda to address priority needs of policy makers and vulnerable communities in Africa; and building the capacity of African climate scientists through cross-regional exchanges, fellowship and secondments.

Addressing these challenges requires more than just understanding of future climate projections and risks, but also factoring in climate research findings into development policy, plans and practices within

the climate sensitive socio-economic sectors such as agriculture and food security (SDG 2), disaster-related targets of SDGs 1 (no poverty), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 13 (climate action), health (SDG 5), water (SDG 6), energy (SDG 7), and natural resources management (water, forests and others) as well as gender, migration, urbanization, infrastructure, marine and coastal zones (SDG 14 and 15). Moreover, provides opportunity to African scientific communities and institutions to establish a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder collaborative platform (SDG 17) that mobilizes expertise and resources to conduct user-inspired research that informs climate change policy and plans in Africa. Hence, in this proposed side-event, the CR4D initiative partners and grant recipient institutions will (i) showcasing contemporary research projects designed to address critical gaps in the understanding of African climate system; and (ii) advance African narrative from Africa perspective on climate science, policies and practices that ensure climate-resilient development in the continent.

Format

The format of the CR4D research grant side-event will include *presentation* (by the CR4D Secretariat), *panel discussion* (by representatives of CR4D partner institutions about the grant management mechanism and its implications in building critical mass of African researchers and host institutions. There will also be the CR4D research grantees presentation session where they will display their research project focus area, methodological approaches, beneficiary groups and expected outputs/outcomes/impact. In the end, there will also be the answer and question section.

Partner institutions

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ACPC African Climate Policy Centre
WCRP World Climate Research Programme
World Meteorological Organization
GFCS GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES
WMO AFRICAN UNION AMCOMET
The African Academy of Sciences
UKaid from the British people
WISER Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa

Nineteen institutions in eleven African countries who have received the CR4D Research Grant.

Time	Events	Chair
	Part I: Opening Session	
13:00-13:05	***Welcoming Remark*** - *Mr. Jean-Paul Adam, Director, UNECA* 	*Mr. Frank Rutabingwa (CR4D coordinator, ACPC)* 
13:05-13:15	***Overview of CR4D in Africa Initiative*** - *Dr. Yosef Amha, CR4D Secretariat, ACPC* 	
	Part II: Presentations	
13:45-13:55	***Socio-Economic Benefits of Climate Information Services: Mapping climate impacts on crop production in Zimbabwe*** - *Dr. Bradwell Garanganga, Zimbabwe* - *Discussion (5 min)* 	*Prof. Laban Ogallo (UoN, Kenya)* 
13:15-13:25	***Plasma N2: Emissions saving through production of low-cost fertilizers using air as a raw material*** - *Dr. Stella Kabiri-Marial, Uganda* - *Discussion (5 min)* 	
13:25-13:35	***The improvement of weather simulations over southern Africa through the modification of boundary layer and microphysics schemes in numerical weather prediction (NWP) models*** - *Dr. Mary Jane Bopape, South Africa* - *Discussion (5 min)* 	
13:35-13:45	***Impact of weather variability on aeroallergens and allergic diseases: implication on public health in Nigeria*** - *Dr. Dimphna Ezikanyi, Nigeria* - *Discussion (5 min)* 	
	Part III: Panel Discussion	
13:55-14:15	***CR4D Research Application for Development*** ***Panelists:*** - *Dr. Joseph Mukabana, WMO, Switzerland* - *Prof. Cush Ngonzo, Health College of Kenge, DRC* - *Dr. David Luke, UNECA, Ethiopia* - *Mr. Washington Zhakata, Director, Zimbabwe* 	*Dr. James Murombedzi (Chief, ACPC)* 
14:15-14:30	**Part IV: General Discussion**	