



# Climate Research for Development (CR4D) in Africa

## Minutes of the Fourth Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting

Nairobi, Kenya  
15-16 November 2018

## **I. Introduction/Opening remark**

The fourth CR4D Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting was opened by the co-chair, Dr. Judy Omumbo. After giving welcome remarks, she requested the meeting participants to introduce themselves. The co-chair informed the meeting that DFID had requested the SAC to allow Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) to attend the SAC meeting and the request was declined because it would contravene standing rules and procedures of SAC which allows only SAC members and the Secretariat to attend. The SAC members however, agreed to allow FCFA to give a 30-minute presentation.

The meeting was informed of the passing of the Co-Chair, Dr. Judy Omumbo's mother, and members expressed sympathy and conveyed condolences. The meeting commended Dr. Omumbo's courage and strength to carry on with a meeting when she has suffered bereavement.

### **Adoption of the meeting agenda**

The following meeting agenda was adopted:

- Review of the minutes of the third SAC meeting,
- CR4D progress report,
- Grant management mechanism (management and potential conflicts of interest),
- Reviewing and endorsing of CR4D's 5-year strategy (2018) and implementation (2019) plan,
- AOB.

## **II. Review and Adoption of the minutes of the third SAC Meeting**

Participants reviewed the minutes of the third SAC meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 9-10 October 2017, and adopted them without change.

## **III. CR4D Progress Report**

The CR4D Secretariat reported that in addition to the SAC, the governance structure of CR4D is now complete with the establishment and operationalization of the Oversight Board (OB) and the Institutional Collaboration Platform (ICP). In addition, the Secretariat circulated the draft 5-year CR4D programme strategy (2018-2022) for review by the SAC, OB and ICP. All their comments and suggestions have been incorporated into the final document.

Further, the SAC was informed that during the implementation of WISER Phase I, the Secretariat in collaboration with DFID conducted a long process of selecting the research grant management institution to manage research grants on behalf of ECA, using a well-known consulting company Dalberg. Dalberg compiled a long-list of suitable institutions from which 13 institutions were shortlisted based on the governance and fiduciary standard questionnaires. These 13 institutions were evaluated further according to the following four criteria:

(1) partnership/donor experience, (2) current size of grants portfolio (3) climate network, and (4) in-house climate expertise and experience. Based on a sensitivity analysis evaluation, the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) scored the highest weighted score and was selected as the preferred grant managing partner. The AAS will be responsible for managing the research

grants issued by DFID through the WISER funded ECA project. The grant for CR4D research amounts to 2.847 million pounds for 18 months.

The Secretariat informed the meeting that it participated in selected climate research meetings during the past year including the RCOFs, WISER, WMO and activities of other relevant institutions.

#### **IV. CR4D Grant Management**

The AAS, as a grant managing institute, shall implement ACPC and DFID terms and conditions in relation to the announcement of calls, compilation of records, awarding the successful grantees, production of quarterly technical and financial reports, managing post-award processes, archiving research data, monitoring and evaluation rs and establishing a feedback system.

Dr. Judy informed the meeting the AAS had made substantial progress in operationalizing the CR4D grant management mechanism after signing the MoU with ACPC/ECA in July 2018. The progress includes producing the inception report and drafting the call guidelines document, risk register and the online application form. The guidelines document provides practical information to potential applicants for preparing and applying for the CR4D fellowship. Those eligible to apply for research grant are early career scientists not established scientists, to boost capacity of the continent (i.e., less than 10 years post PhD award). Selection will ensure a good gender balance and prioritize interdisciplinary research.

The risk register lists key anticipated risks in establishing and delivering the CR4D grant management programme and describes how these risks will be mitigated. The risk register further provides an indication of the impact and likelihood of each of the risks. A color-coded rating summary is provided in the final page of the document.

The SAC meeting commended AAS' efforts in operationalizing the CR4D-research grant mechanism and recommended the following:

- Consider one institution to oversee research to avoid the anticipated huge logistic problem, which may not be addressed by AAS only;
- Avoid foundational research and focus on practical actions but keep the call open to allow innovation;
- Explore the existing platforms on the continent so that they will suggest ideas/questions to be included in call (e.g., lessons learned from other DFID funded programmes);
- Given the short time frame for the research, the 1.5/2.0 degree can be taken as a factor to cover all three thematic areas. The SAC recommended that the first CR4D research grant call should be around this topic and address the knowledge gaps on the impacts of 1.5/2.0 degree on physical science, specific sectors as well as NDC implementation;
- Consider the outcomes of CCDA-7 and the IPCC special report (2018) in designing the call;
- Establish English and French cohorts, focus on the priority to strengthen research uptake into policy and development;

- Conducting a quality project in a year's time is problematic/unrealistic and the secretariat should initiate discussion with DFID to explore options for the no-cost extension;
- The proposed ceiling budget allocated for each project is adequate however, the budget allocated to the hosting institution needs to be increased from 500 USD/month. It should be stated in percentage;
- The amount of money allocated for the successful grantee is relatively small (1,400 USD/month) and should not be described as a "top-up" payment. Depositing the research grant money into the awardees' accounts is likely to be problematic;
- All documents developed in relation to the grant management shall be shared regularly with the SAC members;
- The call should be launched by the end of November 2018;
- Prof. Fredrick Semazzi and Mrs. Jennifer Mohammed-Katerere were elected to represent the SAC in the Project Executive Committee (PEC).

#### Conflict of interest

- The meeting participants discussed a potential conflict of interest with regard to the CR4D research grant. There are 2 areas of concern with regards to COI: (1) the selection of AAS as the grant managing institute and to the AAS programme manager who will manage the CR4D grant happens to be a co-chair of SAC, and (2) The appointment of an AAS fellow as the ICP chair.
- Regarding the earlier point, participants asked the co-chair - how she intends to manage the separation of AAS and CR4D work. The co-chair responded that selection of the grantees will be done by different organs of CR4D and independent reviewers and she will not have any control over the process. Similarly, she will not have control of the finances at AAS. The meeting participants did not see any potential conflict of interest and recommended that she continues as the SAC co-chair with the following caveats;
  - The other co-chair will lead in matters related to the CR4D grant management mechanism
  - CR4D Secretariat seeks legal advice on the potential conflict of interest declared and then report back to the SAC with options.
  - AAS staff should be ineligible to apply for the grant and should not take part in the review of submitted project proposals.
  - A policy for recusal needs to be developed for this grant scheme.

#### **V. 5-year strategy and implementation plan**

The draft 5-year programme strategy document was discussed and approved by the SAC at the meeting. The SAC recommended that the secretariat should have the document edited by a professional language editor at UNECA.

- The meeting noted that the strategic plan lacked relevant associated documents such as a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan, a resource mobilization strategy and a communication and knowledge management strategy. They stressed the urgent need to develop the M&E plan and asked the Secretariat to approach DFID for possible support to recruit an experienced M&E consultant to develop an M&E plan.
- Prof. Cush volunteered to develop a draft Implementation Plan for 2019.

## VI. Actions to be followed

- Meeting participants requested the CR4D Secretariat to finalize the process to complete the SAC membership with the addition of 3 women members by the end of December 2018.
- The meeting agreed to extend the term of the current SAC membership for another 3 – year term for better continuity of CR4D activities

*The meeting expressed disappointment at the delay in signing the generic MoU between ECA and WMO and requested the secretariat to push for its conclusion as quickly as possible.*

In this regard, the meeting asked the secretariat to quickly arrange a meeting with ECA senior management to clarify how important this partnership is for successful achievement of CR4D objectives across the continent.

- *Increase the visibility of CR4D by conducting a CR4D backed study on 1.5/2.0 degree* particularly as this topic will drive the future climate agenda and financial support for the continent.
  - CR4D should to seek active participation in COPs to promote its agenda.
  - Align with the Africa Union’s Agenda 2063 and IPCC 6<sup>th</sup> assessment report with the 1.5/2.0-degree special report
- *Strengthen communication:* in this regard, the meeting urged the secretariat to:
  - Update the CR4D website regularly,
  - Circulate CR4D focused brochures/information notes to a wider audience,
  - Create a password protected backend interface in the CR4D website where internal information can be shared between the SAC members before the end of the 2018.
- Explore all options to re-engage the CR4D researchers to retain institutional memory for effective implementation of the CR4D grant management. In the meantime, someone should also be recruited at the secretariat to provide administrative support to CR4D.
  - The CR4D logo is of inferior quality and might have copy-right issues and therefore should be revised and *Prof. Bruce Hewitson volunteered to use his design networks to develop some improved logo samples to share with the SAC members and secretariat for their comment and approval.*

- The Secretariat should define 3-4 points on what CR4D aims to achieve to be considered in designing the logo,

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## **VII. FCFA**

Summary of the presentation by Zablon Owiti of FCFA

- CR4D accepted the invitation extended by FCFA to participate in FCFA events
- CR4D should be represented in the steering committee of ACC2019
- The ACC2019 concept note shall be circulated
- Caution should be taken to avoid a perception that the conference is donor-driven
- The structure of the conference shall be framed in the way to influence donor's agenda rather than celebrating what the donor has achieved
- Regional climate centers should be one of the constituencies of ACC2019
- Findings should be aggregated to draw policy that can bring real impact on the ground
- Dr. Judy, Dr. Olu and Prof. Bruce were selected to start initial discussions on the potential participation of CR4D in the FCFA events.
- The FCFA event is planned for Sept/Oct 2019

## **VIII. AOB**

- African Park Conference (Nov 2019) this information was shared to see potential entry points for CR4D's participation
- ARFSD (April 2019)

Dr. Olu suggested that. SAC members who plan to attend COP 25 could participate in a panel discussion.

## **IX. Closing Remarks**

- The SAC meeting participants thanked Judy for her courage to conduct the meeting successfully amidst her bereavement and wished her well.
- Judy thanked all SAC members for their participation and commended the work done by the Secretariat. She wished each of the participant a safe journey back home.
- The meeting adjourned at 14:00 on 16 November 2018.

## List of Meeting Participants

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No.	Name	Affiliation
1	Prof. Bruce Hewitson	University of Cape Town, South Africa
2	Mr. Mark	WMO-East Africa, Nairobi, Kenya
3	Dr. Oluyede Ajayi	CTA, Amsterdam, Netherlands
4	Prof. Laban Ogallo	ICPAC/UNDP DRR Project Coordinator
5	Dr. Judith Omumbo	African Academy of Sciences, Nairobi-Kenya
6	Prof. Cush Ngonzo-Luweso	Kinshasa, DRC
7	Prof. Nouredin Gaaloul	Ministry of Water Resources, Tunis-Tunisia
8	Prof. Fredrick Semazzi	Kampala, Uganda
9	Prof. Richard Anyah	Connecticut State University, USA
10	Ms. Jenifer Mohamed-Katerere	IUCN, Zimbabwe
11	Dr. James Murombedzi	ACPC-UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
12	Mr. Frank Rutabingwa	ACPC-UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
13	Mr. Charles Akol	GERNS-UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
14	Mr. Charles Muraya	ACPC-UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
15	Dr. Yosef Amha	ACPC-UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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