

Climate Services For Risk Reduction in Africa

CS4RRA, 2023

Funders



Direction générale
de la recherche
et de l'innovation



In Cooperation with



Climate Services for Risk Reduction in Africa 2023 Webinar Forum with West Africa

- **Improvement of early warning system and adaptation measures for disaster risk reduction, Uni. Lomé, Lomé, Togo, September, 28, 2023**
- **Excessive water management, Uni. F.H.B., Abidjan, Ivory Coast, first week of November 2023**
- **Climate-smart agriculture and sustainable landscapes, Uni. K.N., Kumasi, Ghana, last week of November 2023**
- **Climate impacts and resilience under present and future scenarios, Uni. C.A.D., Dakar, Senegal, mid December 2023**

These multilateral webinars intend to:

- Strengthen climate resilience in Africa in order to raise awareness about climate knowledge, identify key services for adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction
- Examine potential areas for cooperation in research on climate risk management, resilience and adaptation in West Africa and thus defragment the programme landscape in favour of common goals and common impact of funding
- Describe pathways and priorities for research, innovation and capacity development in the area of Climate Services for Risk Reduction that contribute to the new Innovation Agenda between African Union and European Union
- Identify actionable and complementary steps to boost Knowledge, Innovation and Capacity via trilateral or multilateral joint calls or actions (South-South and South-North)

Partners



THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP
LE PARTENARIAT AFRIQUE-UE



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WEBINAR 1

Improvement of early warning systems and adaptation measures for disaster risk reduction

Uni. Lomé, Lomé, Togo, September, 28, 2023

1. Overall concept

African countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change and are amidst those around the world facing many shared challenges which require sustainable solutions. West Africa has some of the highest urbanization rates in the world, particularly in coastal areas. Currently, one African in three lives in an urban area, and projections indicate that by 2035, one African in two will live in an urban area (source: United Nations). As a result, an increasing number of young men migrate, leaving women on the farm to face all the disadvantages and challenges of climate change. Destructive impacts of climate change like heat waves, droughts, floods and increasingly severe storms are the primary culprits behind decreased farming output and rising hunger in the continent. Rural people are facing serious long-term degradation of natural resources. Desertification, deforestation, high levels of crop and livestock diseases and pests, and unreliable and erratic rainfall make both agriculture and livestock risky enterprises. Agricultural and livestock productivity is low, leading to chronic poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition. Added to high demographic pressure, the occurrence of high-impact meteorological events in a context of climate change and variability, will cause considerable social, economic and environmental damage. In addition, low levels of preparedness and a lack of clearly defined response measures exacerbate the negative impacts associated with extreme weather and climate events. Most of these frequent and severe natural disasters are weather-related. Of these, droughts, epidemics and floods are responsible for 99% of all fatalities. Heavy rains, floods and landslides are becoming increasingly common along the Guinean coast. The impacts are often amplified by anthropogenic pressure, with populations settling in informal, non-acidified areas, which are often low-lying areas or former rivers that have dried up and flood rapidly in the event of heavy rains. Moreover, a recent increase in extreme rainfall and ensuing fluvial flood events have caused fatalities and they are the costliest natural disasters in most West African countries. Hence, the ongoing regional climate change in the Sahel is influencing environmental processes and human well-being in a multitude of ways depending on the landscape, societal, economic, and political structure, institutional framework, environmental enabling policies, actors' knowledge, and ability to respond or adapt to changing and challenging historically grown conditions. To strengthen climate resilience in West Africa, better climate knowledge and services, including better early warning procedures, are required at regional and local levels both for Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change¹.

Following the examples of the recent European Climate Adaptation Conference and Climate Neutral Forum, it is proposed to organize:

- In 2023, a forum through a series of 4 in-depth webinars based on West-African hubs with African and European representatives on the area of Climate Services for Risk Reduction in West Africa and considering the three KIC (Knowledge, Innovation, and Capacity Development) angles.
- In 2024, a stocktaking conference based on West-African and European hubs to present results of the forum of webinars.

In this context, a regular cycle of four webinars and a stocktaking meeting are foreseen at the regional level. To this aim, it is proposed to co-design such events with West African partners from three complementary angles (quoted KIC below):

- *Knowledge of the regional climate system* at relevant scales for those working in the field within different sectors;

¹ See e.g. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212420918309373>

- *Innovation of climate services*, meeting the actual needs of sectors exposed to current and future climate change and aligned with the AU-EU innovation agenda;
- *Capacity building*, in particular for new African generations within the public and private sectors of the countries concerned.

The overall goals are to:

- strengthen climate resilience in Africa in order to raise awareness about climate knowledge, identify key services for adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction;
- examine potential areas for cooperation in research on climate risk management, resilience and adaptation in West Africa and defragment and thus, defragment the program landscape in favour of common goals and common impact of funding;
- describe pathways and priorities for research, innovation and capacity development in the area of Climate Services for Risk Reduction for longer-term EU (DE-FR)-West Africa cooperation which could be addressed in a joint call;
- identify actionable and complementary steps to boost KIC via trilateral or multilateral joint actions.

2. Objectives of multilateral hybrid webinars

The objectives of these multilateral hybrid webinars are to:

- Address particularly pressing issues in the area of Climate Services for Risk Reduction in West Africa focusing on Research, Innovation & Capacity Building, on coastal, urban and rural areas
- Identify priorities for joint vision and multilateral actions (South-South & North-South Cooperation)
- Feed a Stocktaking Conference in early 2024, including short-term actionable steps
- Contribute to African Union – European Union Innovation Agenda and climate change and sustainability education CCSE Partnership

3. 1st WEBINAR: improvement of warning systems and adaptive measures for disaster risk reduction in West Africa

This first webinar aims to focus on, **improvement of warning systems and adaptive measures for disaster risk reduction in the West African region and will be held at WASCAL, in the University of Lomé, TOGO on September, 28, 2023.** It will cover the following topics:

- Increase knowledge of the hazard;
- Better forecasting it;
- Communicate the forecast;
- Develop adaptation and mitigation measures;
- Post-evaluate any measure in terms of socio-economic value.
- The "value chain" of early warning systems.
- Predictability of rainfall and temperature from weather forecasts to S2S time scales.
- Identify needs, what science can bring and migrate from science to policy advice.

Format and activities

This hybrid webinar (in-situ and virtual) will be for one day. Attendees will be able to participate either on-site (physically) or virtual. The webinar will be divided into i) opening ceremony; ii) plenary session, iii) two parallel round table sessions (panel discussion). The plenary session will be made up of one moderator and 2 keynote speakers. Each panel session will be made up of one moderator and 6 speakers.

Speakers, moderators

Institutions	Speakers	Meeting
IRD	Benjamin SULTAN <i>Remote</i>	Keynote speaker Plenary panel discussion
University of Lomé, Red Cross Climate Center, Former WASCAL	Heou Maleki BADJANA <i>In Situ</i>	Keynote speaker Plenary panel discussion
Météo France	Philippe PEYRILLE <i>Remote</i>	Parallel session 1
ACMAD	André KAMGA <i>Remote</i>	Parallel session 1
AGRHYMET	Abdou ALI <i>Remote</i>	Parallel session 1
Institute for Environment and Human Security, United Nations University, Bonn	Yvonne WALZ <i>Remote</i>	Parallel session 1
West African Régional Specialized Meteorological Centre-RSMC/ANACIM)	Sadibou BA <i>Remote</i>	Parallel session 1
ECMWF	Frederic VITART <i>Remote</i>	Parallel session 1
University of Leeds	Douglas PARKER <i>Remote</i>	Parallel session 1
Togo Red Cross	Mandjadiba Essoyodina ASSIH <i>In Situ</i>	Parallel session 2
Togo National Focal Point DRR/ANPC	Nelson AKIBODE <i>In Situ</i>	Parallel session 2
Côte d'Ivoire National Focal Point DRR	Paul KAMAN <i>In Situ</i>	Parallel session 2
Niger National Focal Point DRR	Colonel-Major BoubacarBAKO <i>Remote</i>	Parallel session 2
FAO Dakar	Luca PARODI <i>Remote</i>	Parallel session 2
KIT	Andreas FINK <i>Remote</i>	Plenary panel discussion Moderator
Red Cross Climate Center, Former IRD	Cheikh KANE <i>Remote</i>	Parallel session 1 Moderator
IRD	Arona DIEDHIOU <i>In Situ</i>	Parallel session 2 Moderator
WASCAL	Audrey Kantz CODJIA <i>In Situ</i>	Reporter 1
WASCAL	Mouhamed IDRISOU <i>In Situ</i>	Reporter 2
WASCAL	Kehinde OGUNJOBI <i>In Situ</i>	Plenary session Reporting & closing remarks

Targets and invitations to attend the webinar physically or online

The organizations, institutions and groups targeted specifically to attend this webinar are: researchers, WMO, Red Cross, decision-makers, NGOs, Representatives of higher and school education, WASCAL graduate schools, National Emergency management agency (NEMA), National Meteorology and Hydrological agencies, West African Health Organization, relevant ministries and departments (hydro, agriculture, health, etc.) and agencies for policy guidelines, CoC scientists, WASCAL GSP students, and Alumina.

4. The local Organizing Committee

The Local Organizing Committee is in charge of the organisation and operationalization of the webinar in Lomé, Togo. This committee comprises, WASCAL Togo, University of Lomé, ANPC, ANAMET, Red Cross Togo, GIZ with the support of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, Ministry of security and civil protection, Ministry of the environment and Forest Resources, Ministry of Water and Village Hydraulics, Ministry of Maritime Economy, Fisheries and Coastal Protection. IRD and KIT are supporting institutions for this committee.

5. Practical informations

- **Venue:** Grand Auditorium, University of Lomé, 01 BP 1515, Lomé, Togo
- **Date:** September, 28, 2023
- **Time:** 9:00-15:30 (UTC+0), Togo time
- **Website and registrations for attendance online:** <https://events.wascal.org/event/2/>

6. Detailed program

Improvement of early warning system and adaptation measures for disaster risk reduction

CS4RRA, First Hybrid Webinar Program. Lomé, September 28, 2023, 9h00-15h30 GMT

9:00-9:30 Plenary (In Situ and Remote) Welcome and opening ceremony

- Welcome address by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Lomé
- Ambassador of Germany in Togo & BMBF
- Ambassador of France in Togo & MESR
- Opening speech by the Ministry of High Education and Research in Togo

9:30-10:30 Plenary (In Situ and Remote) Keynote and Panel discussion

Moderator: Andreas FINK (KIT)

Reporters:

- Mouhamed IDRISOU (WASCAL GSP Lomé)
- Audrey Kantz CODJIA (WASCAL CoC Ouaga.)

Two keynote speakers

- Benjamin SULTAN (Remote), IRD, Researcher Director, Knowledge network on climate services);
- Heou Maleki BADIJANA (In situ), University of Lomé Togo/ WASCAL, Red Cross Climate Centre);

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-13:00 Parallel Session 1 (In situ and Remote)

Topics: Increase knowledge of the hazard; Better forecasting it; Communicate the forecast; Predictability of rainfall and temperature from weather forecasts to S2S time scales. Climate services for disaster risk management

Moderator: Cheikh KANE (Red Cross Climate Centre)

Reporter : Mouhamed IDRISOU (WASCAL GSP Lomé)

Speakers:

- Philippe PEYRILLE (remote), Météo France
- André KAMGA (remote), ACMAD, Niger
- Frederic VITART (remote), ECMWF, (UK)
- Douglas PARKER (remote), University of Leeds (UK)
- Abdou ALI (remote), AGRHYMET, Niger
- Sadibou BA, (remote), West Africa Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre-RSMC, Senegal)
- Yvonne WALZ (remote), Institute for Environment and Human Security, United Nations University, Germany

11:00-13:00 Parallel Session 2 (In situ and Remote)

Topics: The "value chain" of early warning systems. Disaster risk reduction, identify needs, what science can bring and migrate from science to policy advice.

Moderator: Arona DIEDHIOU (IRD)

Reporter: Audrey Kantz CODJIA (WASCAL CoC Ouaga.)

Speakers:

- Luca PARODI (Remote), FAO, Dakar
- Mandjadiba Essoyodina (In Situ), ASSIH, Togo Red Cross
- Nelson AKIBODE, (In situ), ANPC-Togo
- Paul KAMAN (In Situ), Côte d'Ivoire Dept for the fight against Climate Change (DLCC); Min. of Environment
- Colonel-major Boubacar BAKO (Remote), Niger National Focal Point DRR

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:00 Parallel sessions continue & finalizing reports (In situ and Remote)

15:00-15:30 Plenary: reporting of parallel sessions and conclusions (In situ and Remote)

Reporters

- Audrey K. CODJIA (In situ), WASCAL CoC Ouaga
- Mouhamed IDRISOU (In situ), WASCAL GSP Lomé

Closing remarks: Prof Kehinde OGUNJOBI (In situ), WASCAL Executive Director