

CONCEPT NOTE ON A COLLABORATIVE SIDE EVENT BY RCCs AT AUC PAVILLION DURING COP28

Theme of the side event:

Fostering Regional User Interfaces for Informed Climate Decision-Making

(Version 20 Nov 2023)

1. Organizers

This event will be organized by the African Union Commission, the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, the Indian Ocean Commission and the African regional climate centers: IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC), AGRHYMET, African Center for meteorology Applications for Development (ACMAD), the SADC Climate Service Center (SADC-CSC) and the Climate and Application Center for Central Africa (CAPC-AC).

2. BACKGROUND

The Intra-ACP Climate Services and related applications (ClimSA) programme is an initiative of the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) funded under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) to strengthen the climate services value chain: from access to information, generation and provision of climate services to engagement and capacity of users to ensure utilisation of these services. For that purpose, the intervention aims to provide, among others, technical support, capacity building, institution strengthening and, awareness, for eight Regional Climate Centres in the six ACP regions.

The ClimSA Programme's technical implementing partners include the United Nations World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT).

Within the framework of the ClimSA program, the regional Climate Centers (RCC) mentioned above, are collaborating to showcase the importance of establishing and operationalising sector-specific regional user interface platforms to promote effective decision-making.

The endeavor is a vital part of Output 1 of the ClimSA project, on enhancing the interaction between users, researchers, and climate services providers at regional and national levels through a User Interface Platforms (UIP). As per the World Meteorological Organisation's Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), a UIP is any structured means for users, researchers and climate service providers to come together to design, or co-design, tailored climate services.

The complementary actions ensure that users are well equipped to effectively apply and utilize climate services at the regional level. This initiative effectively bridges the gap between the national and global dimensions and facilitates the dissemination of climate information to end-users at the community level through relevant intermediaries. In line with this, ICPAC, ACMAD and SADC CSC have started implementation and promotion of the use of regional User Interface Platforms for priority sectors in African regions as well as continental level such as Water-Energy-Food nexus and the Disaster Risk Reduction, which is a cross-cutting sector. The engagement with sector-specific users during events like GHACOF, SARCOF, SWIOCOF, PRESAC, PRESAGG and PRESAS, which are prominent User Interface Platforms, is being strengthened to enable more effective co-production

between climate service providers and users in the respective regions. The Centres are also developing other capacities contributing to the GFCS pillars, especially those directly linked with Climate Services Information System (CSIS) and Research, Modelling and Prediction pillars of the GFCS. OACPS Secretariat in association with OACPS Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and technical implementing partners are working together to develop tools for mainstreaming climate in policy and strategies. A critical part of climate mainstreaming is evidence-based decision-making, where decision makers should have the best available information to make knowledgeable decisions. Mainstreaming Climate Services into policy process is the underline factor of successful adaptation action for sustainable development and building a resilient society. Therefore, The side event aims at raising the awareness of decision makers at all level on the usefulness of the user interface platform in improving the climate service development and bridging the gap between climate science and policy for improved mainstreaming of climate services into policy processes in ACP regions.

3. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives are to:

- Present the User Interface platforms which are being promoted in the RECs
- Share best practices among the Regional Climate Centres.
- Promote user engagement and co-production between producers and users of climate services
- Discuss on challenges and opportunity of mainstreaming climate information in policy and programme.

4. EXPECTED RESULTS

- i. understanding and engagement through UIPs as per WMO guidelines promoted
- ii. sharing of best practices among Regional Climate Centres encouraged
- iii. regional collaboration and partnerships in addressing climate challenges strengthened, and
- iv. Science – Policy interface platform initiated

5. Requested time and duration

- i. Duration: Two (02) hours
- ii. Date/Period: 06 Dec 22023
- iii. Requested time: 14:00 – 16: 00 local time

6. PRESENTATION FORMAT

- i. Presentations
- ii. Panel Discussions

7. PARTICIPANTS

- SADC-CSC
- ICPAC

- ACMAD
- AGRHYMET
- ECCAS
- IOC

8. PRESENTATION FORMAT

The format of the participation in COP28 will be done jointly by RCCs as a side event under the African Pavilion.

9. CONTACT EVENT ORGANISERS:

- ICPAC : Dr Zakari Atheru, Email : Zachary.Atheru@igad.int & Dr Hussen Seid, Email: Hussen.Seid@igad.int
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Date 10 December 2023		
Time	Session	Speaker
14:30 - 14:03	Official opening by moderator	AUC Dr Joly Wasambo
14:03 - 14:18	Opening session: Welcome remarks	Ms. Cristelle Pratt , Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) Secretariat of the OACPS DG INTPA Dir. Nyambe , AUC
14:18 - 09:28	UIP WMO	Prof Chris Hewitt , WMO
14:28 - 15:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UIP DRR ○ WATER & HEALTH ○ WATER & AGRI 	Ms. Surrekha , SADC Dr Romeo , ACMAD Dr Hussen , ICPAC
PAUSE		
15:25 – 15:55	Policy Dialogue on Science – Policy Interface Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASG OACPS • DIR. AUC • SG IOC • DIR. ICPAC • DG ACMAD • DG AGRHYMET
15:55-16:00	Wrap-up and Conclusions	AUC