

Workshop on Strengthening the Climate Service User Interface Platforms for the Agriculture, health, Disaster Risk Reduction, and water in Africa.

Tentative Date: July 26-29, 2022 Venue: Hotel xxx Place: Yaounde -Cameroon

Concept note

I. Introduction and overview

Africa is facing three major threats namely the COVID-19, the war in Ukraine and climate change with devastating impacts. Recent IPCC assessments indicate that Africa is among the most vulnerable regions in the world. Droughts, floods, and other extreme events are eroding development gains across direct sectors of the African economy. Recognizing disasters impacts, the AMCOMET meteorology programme has prioritized the development of Multi Hazards Early warning and early action through stronger climate service value chain. Strengthening climate service value chain in Africa is required to deliver climate services needed for adaptation and building resilience of economy and society therefore facilitating sustainable development. Analysis of climate service value chain highlighted the urgency to structure the mechanisms for effective interactions between Climate information and knowledge providers and users supporting co-design, co-development leading to valuable and bespoke climate services.

There are major climate service developments underway in the world, including investments by the European Commission (EC) to investigate more effective ways of engaging with users. The EC funded a major 6-year intra ACP Climate Services and Applications Programme called ClimSA. The programme has structured User interface as the first output indicating the priority given to forming an effective user interface. Even though web portal is a useful tool to address a variety of different users, it is not necessarily the best to deeply engage stakeholders. Face-to-face meetings added to other forms of human interactions help build trust, prominence and legitimacy into the service being developed. Defining and developing a climate service is a journey that should be undertaken in collaboration between the users and providers with many iterations and feedbacks.

The current climate service and its applications landscape in Africa is characterized by limitation on climate observations, little data rescue and management, low infrastructure for data collection and processing, rising demands for climate information from sectors impacted by climate change, a surge in intensity, frequency of disasters and related losses and damages, undue burdens associated with decline in Gross Domestic Product linked to droughts and other climate extremes. Actions to address weaknesses include the investments in modernization of weather, climate, water and environmental services and strengthening of User Interface Platforms to speed up use of services for resilience and adaptation to climate threats.

At the workshop, stakeholders will be called upon to step up efforts to transform the climate threat into development opportunities. Therefore, this workshop is a platform for dialogue and exchanges on issues pertinent to the implementation of the Paris agreement, the Sendai

Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Goals and the AU agenda 2063. It seeks to contribute to strengthening the User Interface involving climate services providers and users in the agriculture, water, Disaster Risk Reduction, and health sectors in Africa. It is also part of the training and communication with users' components of Regional Climate Outlook Fora.

The first Continental Climate Service User Interface Workshop consists of a plenary session on the status of climate services provision in Africa followed by parallel sessions on the detailed needs of agriculture and water, Disaster Risk Reduction, and health sectors to build resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts. A second plenary dedicated to presentation and adoption of updated climate services needs of the sectors mentioned above, the Terms of Reference of User interface platforms per sector and rules of procedures governing the operations of the platforms. A press conference will be organized to share with the African stakeholders and the Public the outcomes of the event.

II. Objective and outputs

4. The objective of the workshop is to bring together climate service providers and sectoral users to structure the User interface for:

- Collecting and sharing information on climate outlooks, state of climate for Africa including trends, extremes other significant events and sectoral impacts from both climate services providers and users:
- Collecting and updating information on status and challenges on users' policy, decision, practices, and actions to reduce impacts as well as their implementation.
- Based on challenges or needs, review climate services requirements to be delivered by ClimSA and other programmes.
- Training of service providers for development of advanced bespoke sectoral climate services and users for interpretation and use of services as part of the Regional Climate Outlook pre-forum training.
- Sharing experiences on good practices for establishment and operation of User Interfaces

The outputs of the workshop will include:

- A report on major climate events in 2020 and 2021 as well as impacts for agriculture, water, DRR and health sectors.
- A report on the challenges or needs of climate information and knowledge for formulating and implementing policies, plans and practices in the four sectors with related climate services requirements.
- Elements on the structure of Training programme on User Interface establishment, operationalization and climate services development for the selected sectors shared.

III. Methodology and participation

Plenary presentations to set the scene on climate products and impacts, guidelines on user interface and current status of user needs and levels of satisfaction will be followed by parallel sessions for the four sectors leading to climate impacts documentation, updates on challenges and needs identification as well as climate services requirements. Based on available training materials, subject matters experts will propose elements of capacity building programme for services providers and users for bespoke services provision, interpretation, and use. Term of References, Rules of procedures will be discussed and adopted to support operation of UIPs. Updates on needs and services requirements will be prepared and shared with global, regional and national services providers and users.

Participation is expected from regional, sub-regional, national, and local stakeholders from the climate services providers and users from the agriculture, water, disaster risk reduction and health sectors. Pan African Farmers organizations, ClimHealth Africa Network, African Platform for DRR, Meteorological and hydrological services, Regional Climate Centres, Water Basin and

hydropower organizations, Ministries of Agriculture, economy, development planning, finance, education, health, homeland security, development planning, AUC, WHO, UNECA, UNOCHA, UNDRR UNOCHA, UNDP regional Offices.

IV. Facilitation

The workshop will be led by facilitators and experts invited or designated by the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD).

V. Format and timing

The workshop will be run as hybrid (virtual and physical) event and will consist of plenary and parallel sessions on four consecutive days. Agriculture, DRR and Water, Health sectors will constitute the parallel sessions. The first plenary will include opening ceremony and the purpose/expectations from the workshop as well as presentations on the status of climate services in Africa. A second plenary will include recommendations and conclusions on user needs and related climate services requirements, Terms of References of User Interfaces, related rule of procedures and closing ceremony. Each parallel session will commence with an introductory presentation by ACMAD/ClimSA Secretariat, presentations by facilitators and experts on questionnaire, guiding questions or training materials. Discussions and completion of survey questionnaire will be followed by results analysis and reporting. Total working period is 4 days.

VI. Other information

Agenda, questionnaire, guiding questions and guidelines for participation will be provided a few weeks before and during the event. Links for virtual access will be provided several days before the workshop.

VII. User fora, networks and organizations to include in the UIPs

- Pan African Farmers Organization
- African Platform for DRR and Working Group
- Epidemic diseases surveillance and control networks (Meningitis)
- African Water forum, Network of African River Basin Organizations and Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW)
- Africa forum on sustainable development and Ministerial Conference on economy, finance and planning
- ClimHealth Africa Network
- African Network of Basin Organizations

VIII. DRAFT WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

item	Time (GMT+1)	Subject	Responsibility
Day 1: July 26, 2022			
1	Registration and Opening Session		
	0900-1000	Welcome remarks and statements	ACMAD Director, Director of Department of Meteorology Cameroon, AUC representative
		Official opening address by the Official of the host country	Minister in charge of Meteorology or his Representative
2	Adoption of the agenda		
	1000-1015	Presentation and Adoption of the agenda and programme for the workshop	- ACMAD - all participants
	1015-1030	Goodwill Messages	PAFO, ClimHealth Africa, AWGDRR, AMCOW, River Basins representatives
3	Purpose, expectations of the workshop and status of climate services in Africa		
	1030-1200	Purpose – expectations-Interests- motivation of providers and users Current status of Climate services provision in Africa (provider perspective) Climate services and agriculture (user perspective) Climate services for water (user perspective) Climate services for disaster risk management (user perspective) Climate services for health (user perspective) Discussions	ACMAD and other African RCCs UNESCO/ICTP COPERNICUS PAFO AMCOW and Water forum C3S AWGDRR or platform for DRR ClimHealth Africa
	1200-1215	Break	
4	Survey Questionnaire (3 Parallel Sessions)		
	1215-1315	Introduction to survey questionnaire for 3 parallel groups:	ACMAD/Secretariat

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate service for agriculture and water - Climate Services for DRR - Climate services for health - Election of groups chair and rapporteurs 	
	1315-1530	Lunch break	
4	Survey questionnaire continued		
	1530-1800	Presentation, administration of survey questionnaire for 3 parallel groups on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate impacts for each sector 	ACMAD Secretariat PAFO AWCOW and River basins ClimHealth
Day 2: July 27, 2022			
	0830-1100	Administration of survey questionnaire on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenges and needs for climate information to reduce impacts - Climate services requirements to meet the identified needs 	ACMAD Secretariat PAFO AWCOW and River basins ClimHealth
	1100-1115	Break	
	1115-1300	Administration of survey questionnaire on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate services requirements to meet the identified user needs - Co-design and co-development and co-delivery of climate services 	ACMAD UNESCO/ICTP ClimSA Secretariat Copernicus C3S
	1300-1500	Lunch Break	
	1500-1700	Group discussions and preparation of reports	
	1700-1715	Break	
5	presentation of reports (plenary)		
	1715-1830	Presentation of reports	
Day 3: July 28, 2022			
6	Organization of User Interface Platform -UIPs(parallel session)		
	0830-1100	Terms of Reference and Rules of procedures for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agriculture and water - DRR - Health Discussions	ACMAD Secretariat AUC PAFO AWCOW and River basins ClimHealth
	1100-1115	Break	
7	Adoption of uips (plenary)		
	1115-1300	Presentation of UIPs Terms of Reference and Rules of procedure Discussions	All
	1300-1500	Lunch Break	
	1500-1730	Adoption of Terms of references and Rules of procedures for 3 UIPs	
	1730	Break	
Day 4: July 29, 2022			
8	Wrap up and way forward		
	0830-1100	Preparation and representation of final report	
9	Vote of thanks & closure of the workshop		

	1100-1145	Closing remarks and Official closing statement	Representatives of PAFO DRR Platform Water and River Basins Climhealth ACMAD AUC Minister in Charge of Meteorology
	1145	End of workshop	