

19th Regional Forum on Seasonal Climate Prediction in Central Africa (PRESAC-19)

09-13 September 2024

Douala - Cameroon

Theme: "Development of Services for Climate Risk Resilience of Central African Socio-Economic Sectors".

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

1. Introduction

Central Africa is one of the regions of the world most severely and diversely affected by (adverse effects of) climate change, with temperatures rising above the global average, increasingly unpredictable rainfall patterns, and a more rapid rise in sea levels in the Gulf of Guinea. Even though the region has contributed virtually nothing to trigger climate change, it is experiencing its consequences. The manifestation of these stress factors and climate shocks, as well as the adaptive capacity of states and communities, varies considerably across the region, depending on the high levels of social vulnerability, political instability, and poverty. Indeed, according to the Climate Vulnerability Index 2022, three (03) of the nine most vulnerable countries in Africa are in Central Africa.

Rising temperatures, heavy rainfall, and rising sea levels, with their corollaries in terms of flooding, drought, coastal erosion, and landslides, are manifesting themselves in different ways in the region, with definite repercussions on the way of life of populations, particularly the most vulnerable. To better manage these different risks, it is necessary to promote the scientific knowledge required for decision-making, while at the same time strengthening operational systems for risk prevention and management. The Regional Forum on Seasonal Climate Forecasts in Central Africa (PRESAC) is a platform contributing to enhance resilience to hydro-climatic disasters in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) region.

At the Central African level, this initiative is aligned with the ECCAS Medium-Term Indicative Plan (2021-2025), key regional agricultural and environmental policies and strategies, including: (i) the ECCAS Climate

Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, (ii) the ECCAS Regional Common Agricultural Policy to 2040 and the Regional Agricultural Investment, Food Security and Nutrition Program (2024-2028). This platform will serve to build capacity and enhance the expertise of stakeholders (regional and national) to better characterize, interpret, analyze, forecast and communicate effectively on hydro-climatic risks.

Comprising climate experts, media players and sectors sensitive to climate impacts, the forum will analyze national, regional and global climate information, and to produce and exchange seasonal forecasts in the ECCAS region and elsewhere. Through exchanges and interactions with users and sectoral players, the forum explores the possible uses of information derived from hydro-climatic forecasts, and assesses the possible implications for socio-economic sectors such as agriculture, integrated water resource management, health and disaster risk reduction.

The forum will also be an opportunity to strengthen links and networks between providers and users of hydro-climatic services. It also serves as a mechanism to :

- accelerate the training of meteorological service agents and users in the climate services value chain.
- ;
- exchange views on reforms to support good governance and guarantee the quality and applications of climate services in the region.

Since its inception, PRESAC has provided the region with an authentic and reliable source of high-quality climate information. This information is developed on the basis of regional and local needs, while taking into account available capacities. Over the years, user interest has grown, with more active and numerous participation in forum sessions. This user participation has enabled the process to evolve, ensuring the sustainability and refinement of climate services for decision-makers and policy-makers.

Under the High Patronage of the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Cameroon, the African Union Commission (AUC) and ECCAS through its specialized institution, the Climate Application and Prediction Centre (CAPC-AC), and in collaboration with the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), with the support of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and other partners, are organizing the nineteenth Central African Seasonal Climate Prediction Forum (**PRESAC-19**).

PRESAC-19 scheduled from September 09 to 13, 2024 in Douala, Cameroon, will have as its theme: **"Development of Services for Climate Risk Resilience of Central African Socio-Economic Sectors"**.

This edition of PRESAC is organized with the financial support of the 11th European Development Fund through the Climate Services and Related Applications Program (ClimSA), as part of the collaborative agreement with the AUC to implement the ClimSA program in Africa. This forum is part of the preparatory activities for the demonstration phase of the institutional and operational capacities to fulfill the mandatory functions of a Regional Climate Centre (RCC) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) by the CAPC-AC. It contributes to the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services by developing, disseminating and facilitating the use of climate forecasting products. The edition will provide the opportunity to integrate for the first time the production of Hydro-Climatic information, which will bring together national and regional experts in Climate and Hydrology in order to enhance co-generation of the regional forecast of Hydro-Climatic character in Central Africa.

2. **Objectives**

The 19th edition of PRESAC aims to:

- a. Train experts from the region's NMHSs in seasonal forecasting tools, methods and products.
- b. Share lessons learned and experiences in the use of hydro-climatic information during the MAM and AMJ 2024 seasons.
- c. Produce and disseminate Hydro-Climatic forecasts for the October 2024 to January 2025 season at national and regional levels, potential hazards and impacts as well as proposed advisories for water, health, disaster risk and agricultural measures in the region to build resilience.
- d. Adapt hydrological and climatic products to the needs of users in the region

- e. Identify gaps and areas for improvement in the interaction between JRCs, national meteorological and hydrological services, disaster risk managers and humanitarian agencies
- f. Exchange with stakeholders from the health, water, risk management and agricultural management sectors participating in the forum on hazards, potential impacts, updating contingency plans, and their implementation.

3. **Methodology:**

Within the framework of the ClimSA project for ECCAS, priority is given to the development of climate services for the health, water resources, disaster risk management, agriculture, and food security sectors. To meet these needs, the PRESAC-19 forum will take place as follows:

- a. **From September 02 to 06, 2024**, an online training session will be organized with climate experts on the different methods for the elaboration of the Climate forecast, including the evaluation of the past forecast, and the different statistical methods of climate forecasting. During the same week, national and regional hydrology experts will meet online to discuss tools and methods for hydrological forecasting.
- b. **From September 09 to 11, 2024**, a pre-forum of national and regional experts (climate, and hydrology) to review and present on forecast performance evaluation, exploit the objective approach to produce Hydro-Climatic forecast, interpret available forecast products, analyze the situation of atmospheric conditions and sea surface temperatures and develop a consensus statement on the climate outlook for the region, discuss potential applications of forecasts for decision making for adaptation and resilience in climate-sensitive sectors ;
- c. **From September 12 to 13, 2024**, a forum devoted to dialogue with sectoral users on the interpretation and use of seasonal consensus forecasts, constraints on use, experiences, and lessons learned on applications, the development of national forecasts, and the organization of climate forums at national and local level. A videoconferencing platform will be set up to enable online participation by connected stakeholders and partners.

4. **Expected results**

- a. Capacities of NHMS national experts are strengthened in tools and methods for developing, understanding, and interpreting seasonal hydro-agro-climatic forecasts,
- b. Agro-climatic and hydrological forecast information and a summary note of specific risks and actions to be taken for the socio-economic sectors of the Central African region for the OND and NDJ 2024-25 season are produced;
- c. Hydrological and agro-climatic products are adapted to user needs for more effective, targeted and amplified use;
- d. Collaboration between disaster risk management agencies, humanitarian agencies, national meteorological services, and user interface platforms strengthened
- e. Experiences, lessons learned, and best practices in early warning and early action in the region are shared;

5. **Financing of the activity**

This activity is conducted within the framework of the implementation of the Intra-ACP project for Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) funded by the European Union, with coordination by the African Union Commission and the Economic Community of Central African States. Technical Support is provided by the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) and the Climate Application and Prediction Centre (CAPC-AC).

6. **Participation**

The pre-forum will bring together experts from NMHSs, Regional and International Organizations involved in climate prediction and its applications. In addition to the above experts, the forum will be attended by NMHS directors, representatives of WMO, the African Union Commission, permanent focal points on

climate change and disaster risk reduction, donors, NGOs, the media, and other users of climate information and services. During the forum, the opportunity is offered to individuals, universities, research centers, and humanitarian organizations, to showcase innovations in climate change mitigation and adaptation. The forum will be held in a hybrid format (face-to-face and videoconference).

7. **Participants profile**

- The African Union Commission
- ACMAD experts
- CAPC-AC experts
- Experts from Regional River Basin Organizations
- AUC ClimSA project staff
- ECCAS officials
- Climate and Hydrology Experts from ECCAS member countries
- Members/focal points of the ClimSA project's priority sector platforms (Agriculture, Risk and Disaster Reduction, Health)
- International, sub-regional organizations, users of PRESAC products (Regional Federations, NGOs, etc.)