

# NEWSLETTER

Oct-Nov-Dec 2024

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## THE EIGHTEENTH AFRICAN CONTINENTAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (ACCOF-18): Improved Climate Services for Informed Decision Making in Africa

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Welcome address by the new DG  
Dr Ousmane Ndiaye



ACMAD and AUC team at COP29

## Interview with the Director General, Dr. Ousmane Ndiaye



### Dr. Ousmane Ndiaye assumes leadership of ACMAD as the New Director General

On Monday, December 16, 2024, the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development warmly welcomed its new Director General, Dr. Ousmane Ndiaye, who officially assumed his duties. To mark the occasion, a general assembly was held in the conference hall, where Dr. Ndiaye met with staff members to present his vision and objectives for ACMAD as a world class continental operational centre of excellence for the application of meteorology for development.

### Dive into the interview with Dr. Ndiaye:

#### **Dr Ousmane Ndiaye, how do you feel as you step into your new role as the Director-General of ACMAD?**

I am excited about the opportunity as well as the challenges of leading the African Center of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD). After many years working with end-users (small-holder farmers, fishers, pastoralists, local decision makers, the private sector, etc.) on delivering climate information services through a multidisciplinary approach, I have come to appreciate the depth and various facets of the task. I will keep learning about and promoting good practices in Africa and the global south. Now it is a pleasure to be able to work on scaling up and leveraging at the continental level, by documenting all the continent's best practices, and facilitating knowledge exchange between various regions in Africa for sustainability.

#### **As the leader of a Continental Climate Center, how would you describe the key challenges posed by climate change impacts in the region?**

Africa is a very vulnerable environment with a lack of resources (infrastructural, financial, etc.), and in this era of climate change the continent should rely on anticipation as its most effective adaptation strategy.

Just a few days, we all witnessed the impacts of Cyclone Chido in the Southwest Indian Ocean, which demonstrates how the provision of weather and climate information at the right time and scale, with the right partnerships and using the right channels is more relevant than ever.

#### **What is your vision for ACMAD's future and what strategy do you intend to implement to achieve your goals?**

Our ambition is to raise ACMAD to a Center of Excellence where state-of-the-art climate science technologies (including Artificial Intelligence) will be used for seamless climate prediction (from hours to decades) which, with strong collaboration to tailor climate information, will inform decisions at all temporal and spatial scales.

This requires, of course, well dedicated and trained personal, up-to-date equipment, and strong collaborations. We will reach our goal through building strong partnerships amongst all stakeholders including climate-science, social-sciences and communication experts, and decision makers and other beneficiaries including from the private sector.

#### **Given that African farmers often struggle to access, trust, or understand climate information, how do you plan to ensure that your work at the continental level effectively reaches and benefits these end users?**

Being a center at the continental level we will also ensure no community is left behind in terms of accessing climate information and capacity building initiatives, by ensuring that all climate initiatives conducted in Africa will be systematically documented, and that good practices are exchanged. This systematic documentation will be valuable (a) to promote good practices, and (b) to demonstrate the impact and value of climate services (M&E).

#### **What approaches do you envision implementing to ensure a good climate services delivery?**

We will map at the continental level all these efforts to be able to tailor our efforts and act efficiently. Public – private sector collaboration, gender issues, and access to information for all will be our priority. In this regard, we will promote a cascading communication chain to facilitate the dissemination of the information from its source to the final users. We believe working with private sector could open potential for a sustainable provision of climate services through some forms of cost recovery on the service provided (insurance, voice and text messaging, mobile app, etc).

#### **Do you have a last comment Dr Ousmane Ndiaye?**

I can assure you of our commitment to support tailored climate service delivery, and our continuing commitment to work with our partners to keep our continent more resilient to climate hazards, and ACMAD will play a pivotal role through its mandate.

## The African Continental Climate Outlook Forum (ACCOF 18)



Group Photo, ACCOF18, Accra, 31 October 2024

The Eighteenth Climate Outlook Forum for the African Continent (ACCOF-18) was held in Accra, Ghana, from October 29 to November 1, 2024. This event was organized by ACMAD in close collaboration with WMO, AUC, the RCCs and other International Partners. ACCOF serves as a platform to support the implementation of the African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (RCOF) coordination function designated by the WMO for Africa. The 18th Edition of the forum aimed to review and document the performance and impacts of the June to September (JJAS) season.

It also sought to release the consolidated continental climate outlook for the November to February (NDJ/DJF) 2024/2025 season. The forum discussed the implications of the NDJ/DJF 2024/2025 climate forecast and develops advisories and management strategies for various climate-sensitive socio-economic sectors.

Additionally, it raises awareness of the benefits and quality of Integrated and Harmonized Climate Outlooks at the continental level, which are essential for adapting to climate change across the RECs.



## Key Highlights from the ACCOF18 consolidated statement

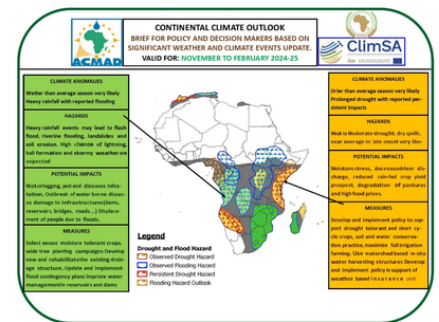
The rainy season from November 2024 to February 2025 was expected to be:

**-Wetter than usual** over the southern parts of Africa, particularly Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

**-Normal to below-normal** rainfall over north-west Morocco and northern Algeria.

**-While Below normal** rainfall was expected over eastern parts of Africa covering parts of Somalia, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, southern Angola, northern Namibia, northwestern Botswana and northern Madagascar.

**Warmer-than-usual weather** conditions are expected across most parts of Africa during both the NDJ and DJF seasons.



Impact based climate outlook for DJF 2024- 2025 issued in October 2024

Find more [bit.ly/4avta33](https://bit.ly/4avta33)

## AUC CLIMSA CONTINENTAL WORKING GROUP ON STRATEGIC CLIMATE INFORMATION

### Towards a New Science-Policy Platform at the Continental Level guiding Climate informed Decision Making In Africa



Group photo, November 28 2024, Kigali

Kigali, 28-29 November – ACMAD was delighted to participate in the Continental Working Group on Specific Climate services workshop organized the African Union Commission (AUC).

The meeting brought together experts from regional climate centers and delegates from the AUC to brainstorm and develop a roadmap for establishing and operationalizing a continental working group across ClimSA priority sectors.

A key responsibility of the working groups will be to produce specialized bulletins tailored to the specific needs of each sector.

These bulletins will directly support User Interface Platforms (UIPs), enhancing the science-policy interface and guiding informed decision-making at the continental level.



Working session, Kigali, 28 Nov 2024

The overarching goal was to leverage the existing regional platforms to establish a sustainable, institutionalized science-policy interface at the continental level. These working groups will bring together climate experts, key sectoral stakeholders, representatives from Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and more to achieve this ambitious goal.

A draft roadmap outlining the next steps has been initiated to advance this initiative.

# ACMAD at COP29: Strengthening Climate Resilience through Collaboration



Led by Dr Abiodun K. Lawal, Climate Change Expert, the ACMAD delegation had the privilege of participating in a series of side events and bilateral meetings with key partners, including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the African Union Commission, ClimSA, the European Union, and the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP). These exchanges provided a valuable platform to showcase major initiatives underway at ACMAD to promote climate services and enhance the integration of climate policies across Africa.

## UNFCCC side event lead by ACMAD

One of the highlights of COP29 was ACMAD's organization and facilitation of a side event under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The event focused on multi-hazard early warning systems and climate financing, in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership and ICPAC.



Panel discussion with the organising partners

The event underscored Africa's remarkable progress in advancing climate resilience. Innovative tools, such as the Drought Monitoring Tool, essential for tracking drought conditions on the continent, were presented. Discussions also explored practical solutions for increasing climate financing, enhancing early warning systems, and building trust with users by demonstrating the tangible benefits of these systems in saving lives and reducing vulnerabilities.

## Engagement with the WMO



ACMAD team with the deputy SG of WMO at COP29

Another key moment was the audience granted by the WMO Deputy Secretary-General to the ACMAD delegation, led by its new Director General, Dr. Ousmane Ndiaye.

These discussions emphasized the importance of collaboration, capacity building, and innovation in strengthening Africa's resilience to climate change.

Through these engagements, ACMAD reaffirmed its commitment to fostering partnerships and delivering impactful climate services across the continent.

## Highlight of some key events:

### Side Event at the African Pavilion at COP29 on the mainstreaming of Climate Information:

ACMAD partnered with ClimSA and Africa RCCs to host a dynamic discussion on the integration of climate information into policies across Africa. The event emphasized the urgent need to make weather and climate information accessible and effectively integrated into socio-economic sectors to enhance resilience.

The session also highlighted examples of best practices developed across the continent, showcasing successful approaches to strengthening climate-informed decision-making and fostering sustainable development.

### Side event at the Caribbean Pavilion:

At the Caribbean Pavilion, ACMAD shared the outcomes of its capacity-building initiatives for national meteorological services. Among the key achievements, 42 experts from 19 countries and 11 AIMS students were trained through the ClimSA program on forecasting, monitoring, and producing advisory bulletins



[Read more](#)

## ACMAD Supports the 1st National Climate Outlook Forum in Cameroon



Official opening by the ACMAD representative, Prof Matazu, the director of Cameroon Meteo and Dr. Diasso from the AUC, 08 Oct 2024, Yaoundé

From October 8–11, 2024, Cameroon held its first National Climate Outlook Forum (NCOF), organized with the support of ACMAD, WMO and the ClimSA program of the African Union Commission (AUC).

The forum aimed to downscale regional climate outlooks and co-produce risk-integrated climate information tailored to support decision-making in climate-sensitive sectors. This collaborative approach is crucial for addressing climate risks and building a more resilient future for Cameroon.

The joint efforts of all participants significantly enhanced the country’s ability to anticipate and mitigate climate-related impacts, strengthening national climate resilience.

### Key Highlights of the Forum:

- **Operationalization of the National UIP (User Interface Platform):** The forum marked a significant step in operationalizing Cameroon’s National UIP, fostering sustained collaboration between climate service providers and end users.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** National stakeholders were sensitized on the effective use of climate information in sectors such as agriculture and disaster risk reduction (DRR).
- **Co-Production of Climate Products:** Customized products, such as seasonal climate outlooks, were co-produced with active input from stakeholders, particularly those from agriculture and DRR sectors.

This milestone event underscored the importance of collaboration and user-focused approaches in delivering impactful climate services for sustainable development.

[Read more](#)

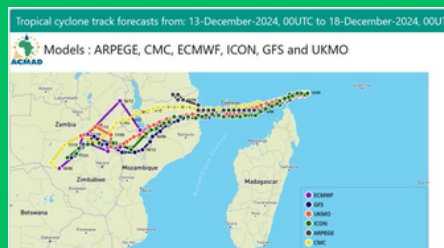
# CYCLONE CHIDO AT A GLANCE



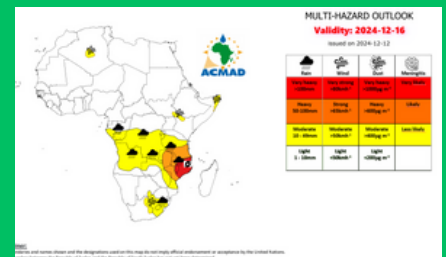
Chido at its peak on 12 December 2024.

The intense tropical cyclone, first reported on December 5, 2024, and named Chido later on, impacted the Comoros and Mayotte on December 14 before heading toward Mozambique and Malawi, re-intensifying over the warm waters of the Mozambique Channel. ACMAD’s Multi-Hazard Center closely monitored the cyclone’s evolution in collaboration with other regional centers and issued an alert on December 12th, and 13th, 2024.

On December 15, Chido made landfall in Mozambique, about 35 km south of the port city of Pemba in Cabo Delgado Province, as an intense cyclone with sustained winds of 205 km/h over 10 minutes. It then moved inland, weakening rapidly into a severe tropical storm. On December 16, after 00:00 UTC, the system entered southern Malawi as a moderate tropical storm.



Cyclone CHIDO tracking issue on December 13th 2024



Cyclone CHIDO early warning issue on December 12th 2024

Cyclone Chido caused extensive material damage and tragically claimed the lives of more than one hundred people.

Despite improvements in meteorological services aimed at mitigating the impacts of extreme events like Cyclone Chido, it is clear that more efforts are needed to effectively translate early warnings into actionable and impactful anticipatory measures.



# COOPERATION

## for Improved Service Delivery

## Strengthening collaboration

### Visit of the Director General to the Ministry of Transport of Niger

The Minister of Transport and Equipment, Colonel Major Salissou Mahaman Salissou, Commander of the National Order of Niger, received the new Director General of ACMAD, Dr. Ousmane Ndiaye, during a courtesy visit. Dr. Ndiaye was accompanied by Mr. Katiellou Gaptia Lawane, Director of Meteorology of Niger and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of ACMAD. **The visit served as an opportunity for fruitful discussions on strengthening collaboration between ACMAD and Niger**, while also gaining a deeper understanding of the principles of cooperation. These principles are straightforward and closely aligned with Niger's national priorities.



*Dr. Ndiaye (ACMAD DG) and Mr. Katiellou (Director of METEO Niger) posing with the Minister of Transport, December 24, 2024, Niamey.*

### The Director General Visit to the AGRHYMET Center

Despite a busy schedule on the final day of 2024, the Director General of ACMAD, Dr. Ousmane Ndiaye, made time to pay a courtesy visit to one of ACMAD's closest partners, the Acting Director General of the AGRHYMET Center, Mr. Issoufou Baoua.

**The discussions centered on fostering synergies, establishing a framework for mutually beneficial collaboration**, and optimizing opportunities to implement impactful actions for the benefit of the population. Both leaders agreed to reconvene in the New Year for an extended meeting with their respective experts to further advance these objectives.



*Dr. Ndiaye (ACMAD DG) and Mr. Issoufou Baoua (AGRHYMET ACTING DG). 31 December 2024, Niamey*

# Strengthening collaboration

## Strengthening Collaboration on Climate Challenges in the Liptako-Gourma Region:

ACMAD DG was honored to welcome the a strategic meeting on december 19th with the Integrated Development Authority of the Liptako Gourma States (ALG): marking an important step toward addressing regional climate challenges. The objective was to enhance collaboration by leveraging ACMAD's climate expertise to support ALG's regional knowledge management platform. The ALG is an intergovernmental organization established on December 3, 1970, by Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger with a mission to reduce poverty, accelerate sustainable development and enhance security in the region. ACMAD is honored to contribute to this initiative, which addresses pressing climate impacts while strengthening the resilience of communities in the Liptako-Gourma region.



Meeting with ALG and ACMAD, December 19, 2024, Niamey.

## Global warming: 2024, a year of historic records

On 10 January 2025, the WMO confirmed that 2024 was the warmest year on record, based on six international datasets. The last ten years are also the warmest on record

Source : <https://wmo.int/fr/media/news/lomm-confirme-que-2024-est-lannee-laplus-chaude-jamais-enregistree-avecune-temperature-superieure>

## Ground visit: The Director General visits ACMAD's New Site

On December 31, 2024, the final day of the year, the Director General of ACMAD, Dr. Ousmane Ndiaye, visited the 2.025-hectare site allocated to ACMAD by the government of Niger. The long-term vision of ACMAD's leadership is to secure partnerships to develop technical infrastructure on this new site while preserving the current site as an administrative hub. This initiative reflects the organization's commitment to expanding its capacity and enhancing its operational efficiency.



Dr Ousmane Ndiaye at the ACMAD new December 31, 2024, Niamey.

## Provisional calendar of regional seasonal climate outlook fora

- Regional Climate Outlook forum in the Gulf of Guinea countries (PRESAGG 2025): 17-21 March 2025
- Regional Climate Outlook forum in the Sudanian-Sahelian zones: 21-15 April 2025

## Partners:



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