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Smart Downscaling of Seasonal Climate Outlooks

Toward advancing the African continental capacity to generate high quality, timely, repeatable and coordinated seasonal forecasts and outlooks that are tailored to regional and national needs.

Vacancies Notice

PUBLICATION DATE	JANUARY 5th 2026
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION	JANUARY 19th 2026

N°	POSITION
1	Project Coordinator
2	Gender Expert Consultant



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Background

Across Africa, seasonal climate outlooks play a fundamental role in protecting livelihoods, strengthening food security, and guiding public and private sector planning. For small-scale producers, who form the backbone of Africa's food systems, timely and trusted climate information can determine whether crops germinate, whether livestock survive dry spells, and whether families retain stable income and nutrition through the year. Governments and frontline institutions similarly rely on these forecasts to anticipate droughts and floods, mobilize health responses, and manage risk across critical sectors.

Yet despite their importance, Africa's current seasonal forecasting system is not consistently delivering actionable, localized, or timely information to the people who need it most. Across much of the continent, seasonal forecasts remain late, generic, and insufficiently tailored to the reality, limiting their value for agricultural productivity, food security, and climate resilience.

At the same time African climate institutions, in charge of producing the climate information, are also operating within a rapidly changing environment. Demand for actionable climate information is rising, while technological advances, such as AI-enabled forecasting and improved Earth observation, are creating opportunities for more precise and localized products. A coordinated action is needed to take advantage of the emerging technologies and reverting the risk of widening regional inequalities and reinforcing fragmented, inconsistent forecasting practices.

Over the years progress have been made by the WMO network of African Regional Climate Centers (RCCs). Each Season, African regional Climate Centers (RCCs) collaborate through a structured process to generate regional seasonal outlooks, the Climate Outlook Forums (COFs). These regional forums synthesize global climate signals (e.g., El Niño Southern Oscillation –ENSO, Indian Ocean Dipole –IOD) and historical trends into consensus-based seasonal predictions for broad climatic zones. Currently, COFs cover all regions of Africa and take place regularly as part of a well-established and reliable process. There are now eight operational outlook forums over the continent which are coordinated by the WMO network of regional centers: ACMAD (ACCOF), ICPAC (GHACOF), AGRHYMET (PRESAGG, PRESASS), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)-CAPC (PRESAC), SADC-CSC (SARCOF), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC, SWIACOF) and RCC North Africa (MedCOF).

Ideally, the forecasts and related information products developed by these Regional Climate Centers and their respective COFs should then flow through national systems to be downscaled, contextualized, and communicated to sectoral users. National Climate Outlook Forums (NCOFs), convened by NMHSs, are tasked with this translation step. They must tailor regional inputs into guidance that aligns with local geographies, crop calendars, and sectoral priorities. However, this handoff, from regional outlooks to usable local products, remains a persistent bottleneck. The persistent gaps in data, tools, and weak coordination (with RCCs and sector-specific institutions) prevent most National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) from translating regional forecasts into trusted, locally relevant guidance for farmers and frontline planners.

These bottlenecks disproportionately affect small-scale farmers, women, and vulnerable communities who most depend on localized, reliable climate guidance to manage risk and make seasonal production decisions.



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To address these systemic challenges, the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) and partners are implementing the **Smart Downscaling of Seasonal Climate Outlooks** project. This 12-month (Jan to Dec 2026) initiative, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, aims to advancing the African continental capacity to generate high quality, timely, repeatable and coordinated seasonal forecasts and outlooks that are tailored to regional and national needs. With a focused assessment effort across Kenya (East Africa) and Nigeria (West Africa) and their respective regional climate centers (ICPAC and AGRHYMET) and NMHS (KMD and NiMET), the project will diagnose why existing seasonal forecasts fail to deliver operational value, and identify where scalable, investable improvements can be made.

The positioning ACMAD as the lead implementer allows lessons to be learned and synthesis across regions (East and West Africa) with potential outcomes of improved coordination and action across the entire African continent. Moreover, ACMAD is strategically positioned to bring RCCs and NHMS as key active partners of the effort. ACMAD's strategic partnership with the CGIAR (Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT) will ensure this effort is steered and technically supported by cutting edge methodologies and in-country networks. The technical assistance of Jataware will ensure that the effort is grounded in deep technical know-how on designing appropriate tools and approaches, designing workflows and mockups for potential technical solutions and tools. In this way, ACMAD convenes strategic partnerships that in the future can enable change in forecast practice in the African continent.

This initiative delivers a validated roadmap for where and how to invest in seasonal forecasting systems that actually work for agriculture and food security. It strengthens ACMAD's role as a continental coordination leader, while remaining rooted in country- and region-level realities. It is consultative, gender-responsive, and designed to support scalable solutions based on concrete, costed, validated priorities.

This project is designed to bring clarity and coordination to Africa's seasonal forecasting system by mapping and assessing the people and institutions responsible for delivering climate information, as well as on the key products that have the greatest potential for impact. Across the continent, a federation of stakeholders (from ACMAD to RCCs and NMHSs) is already engaged in producing and disseminating seasonal forecasts. This project will identify what products matter most, where breakdowns occur, and how to fix them.

The initiative will also reinforce and help evolve the ACCOF (African Continental COF) mechanism, ensuring that the continental and regional outlooks produced by ACMAD and RCCs are more directly aligned with national-level priorities, and more easily translated into sector-specific, downscaled products. Ultimately, the goal is not just to improve the forecasts themselves, but to ensure that they are used—trusted, timely, and tailored to real-world decisions across diverse African contexts.

The project will generate a clear, evidence-based understanding of where seasonal forecasts can deliver the greatest value for small-scale producers, planners, and service providers. Whereas this investment is a first step towards diagnosing the problem and prioritizing possible solutions, our longer-term expected outcome is that regional and national institutions effectively generate,



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downscale, and translate seasonal climate information to meet user needs and strengthen climate resilience. Over the long-term the project's impact is to enhance resilience across Africa through inclusive access to actionable and timely climate information.

In the future, these outcomes will position ACMAD, RCCs, and NMHSs to scale up improvements in seasonal climate services that are grounded in user demand, technically feasible, and institutionally embedded. These improved systems ultimately underpin future efforts to strengthen resilience and decision-making in African food systems.

To implement this initiative, ACMAD is recruiting highly experienced personnel to be positioned at the institution and work with partners and colleagues in the provision of services across the continent according to his mandate.



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VACANCY NOTICE

N° 005/2026/ACMAD

1. Project Coordinator

1.1. Duties and Responsibilities

Under the supervision of the ACMAD's Director General (*Senior Advisor*), the coordinator will be responsible for timely achievement of project purpose and objectives, project execution, planning, directing, supervision, oversight of staff recruitment, guidance, staff performance enhancement. It will be the main liaison with partners and the Gates Foundation Program Officer(s).

The selected candidate is expected to perform the following duties:

- Support the Senior Adviser in overall project planning, execution, and monitoring
- Lead day-to-day management of the project, ensuring activities are delivered on time, within scope, and within budget.
- Convene and facilitate technical meetings, workshops, consultations, and working groups at national, regional, and continental levels.
- Develop and implement detailed work plans, timelines, and coordination structures across all work packages and partners.
- Provide operational supervision to the project staff, ensuring their work aligns with project objectives and timelines.
- Oversee the coordinate with the Regional Climate Centers (ICPAC, AGRHYMET) and NMHSs (KMD, NiMet) to ensure strong collaboration.
- Manage relationships with CGIAR and Jataware, ensuring technical inputs are well integrated.
- Collaborate with the Gender Expert Consultant to Ensure gender-responsive and inclusive participation across all activities.
- Lead the develop and maintenance project MEAL tools and frameworks, tracking progress against indicators, milestones and deliverables across all the work packages.
- Prepare high-quality progress reports, financial updates, donor reports, and communication materials.
- Ensure adherence to Gates Foundation project management and reporting standards.
- Work closely with the Admin & Finance Officer on budgeting, procurement, contracting, and financial monitoring and ensure with the alignment with ACMAD and Gates Foundation policies.
- Facilitate inclusive engagement with national and regional stakeholders, including sectoral users
- Review technical outputs, ensuring accuracy, quality, and user relevance.
- Support development of minimum viable product (MVP) concepts, system-level



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recommendations, and other technical deliverables

- Ensure alignment of project outcomes with ACCOF improvements and continental coordination mechanisms.
- Identify risks and propose mitigation strategies.
- Capture lessons learned and support learning exchanges across partners.
- Carry out other relevant duties as required

1.2. Qualifications and Experience

• **Required:**

- Advanced degree (MSc or PhD) in Project Management, in Meteorology, Climate/Environmental Science, Monitoring & Evaluation, or related fields.
- Minimum 5–7 years of professional experience managing or coordinating multi-stakeholder or multi-country projects in climate services, meteorology, agriculture, or development.
- Experience supervising teams and coordinating technical and administrative staff.
- Experience working with African RCCs, NMHSs, or climate information systems is an asset.
- Experience with BMGF or other major donor–funded projects is highly desirable.
- Demonstrated experience integrating gender and social inclusion is an advantage
- Excellent stakeholder engagement and partnership coordination abilities.
- Strong analytical, organizational, and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent communication and report writing skills.
- Ability to work under tight timelines and manage multiple moving components.
- High level of professionalism, initiative, and cultural sensitivity.

• **Preferred:**

- Proven experience in MEAL, including development of monitoring plans, indicator tracking, learning processes, and results-based reporting.
- Strong MEAL and adaptive management skills.
- Familiarity with seasonal forecasting, early warning systems, or climate data workflows is an added asset.
- Excellent command of English (written and spoken).
- Working knowledge of French is a strong asset.

1.3. Contractual Arrangements

- Nature of the appointment:** The project coordinator will be contracted for Full Time during **12 months**, with the possibility of extension based on performance and project funding and needs.
- Salary:** Salaries and benefits will be commensurate with experience and qualifications of the candidate. Per diems will be allocated for international travel.
- Duty Station:** The position is based at ACMAD, Niamey, Niger, with possible field missions within Africa and overseas.
- Date of duty:** As soon as possible after notification



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1.4. Application Process

Interested candidates who meet the above criteria (see section 1.2) should submit:

- A detailed updated CV
- An application letter outlining relevant experiences and motivation
- Certified true copies of Degrees and Certificates
- Contacts of three referees from previous positions or projects
- A brief methodology of one or two pages which describes how the applicant intends to address the assignment

Women are explicitly encouraged to apply. ACMAD is an equal opportunity institution and encourages applications from diverse backgrounds.

Deadline for Applications: January 19th, 2026

Review of applications will start immediately after. Vacancy can be extended until a suitable candidate is found.

Applications can be addressed to:

ACMAD, 55 Avenue des Ministères, PL 6, BP 13184, Niamey-Plateau, Niger

Email: contact@acmad.org; grh@acmad.org



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N° 006/2026/ACMAD

2. Gender Expert Consultant

2.1. Duties and Responsibilities

Under the supervision of the ACMAD's Director General (*Senior Advisor*)/*Project Coordinator*, the Gender Specialist will be of ensuring that gender responsiveness and social inclusion are embedded across the project design, stakeholder engagement, assessment methodologies. Moreover, the consultant will support ACMAD in delivering a project that strengthens climate resilience equitably and inclusively. Furthermore, he/she will provide technical expertise and strategic guidance on integrating gender equality, social inclusion, and equity considerations into all phases of the project.

The selected candidate is expected to perform the following duties:

- Conduct a gender analysis to identify differentiated needs, barriers, and priorities for women, youth, and vulnerable groups.
- Assess how gender considerations are (or are not) reflected in regional and national climate-service institutions.
- Identify institutional gaps and opportunities to strengthen gender-responsive processes
- Integrate gender-responsive metrics and questions into interviews, workshops, and assessments.
- Identify barriers women face in accessing climate forecasts, tools, and advisory services.
- Recommend actionable steps to improve accessibility, usability, and trust among women and marginalized stakeholder groups.
- Provide strategic advice in the development of programmes, organization growth and development to mainstream gender equality in various angles of the climate services value chain including decision-making processes.
- Support teams to design activities that address gender gaps and promote equitable participation.
- Develop a Gender Integration Framework tailored to seasonal climate services.
- Provide inputs to project MEAL tools to ensure gender-sensitive indicators.
- Develop checklists or guidance notes for integrating gender into services delivery, project design, log frames, workplans, budgets, and risk frameworks.
- Develop and revise training materials and key resources and make practical advice and interagency guidance available for internal and external uses.
- Empowering partners through technical expertise and capacity development, fostering peer



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learning and enabling informed decisions, including assessing the gaps in gender mainstreaming in the NMHSs.

- Carry out other relevant duties as required

2.2. Qualifications and Experience

- **Required:**

- Advanced degree (Master's or PhD) in Gender Studies, Social Sciences, Development Studies, Climate/Environmental Policy with a gender focus, or related disciplines
- Minimum 7 years of experience in gender analysis, gender mainstreaming, or social inclusion in development, climate change, or agriculture sectors.
- Proven experience integrating gender in climate services, resilience programs, or early warning systems is a strong asset.
- Experience working in Africa with regional/national meteorological services or agriculture/DRM institutions is highly desirable.
- Experience contributing to donor-funded projects (BMGF experience preferred).
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- Excellent communication and technical writing skills in English and/or French.

- **Preferred:**

- Strong analytical skills with demonstrated ability to produce high-quality gender assessments.
- Ability to translate gender insights into practical recommendations for technical teams.
- Excellent facilitation skills, ensuring inclusive participation in consultations and workshops.
- Strong writing skills and ability to produce concise, actionable guidance materials.
- Excellent command of English (written and spoken).
- Working knowledge of French is a strong asset.

2.3. Expected Deliverables

- Inception Note and Work Plan: Outlining methodology, approach, timeline, and coordination mechanisms for integrating gender across all project work packages.
- Comprehensive Gender Analysis Report: Highlighting institutional gaps, opportunities, and constraints affecting gender-responsive climate services. Assessing gender integration within regional and national climate-service institutions
- Gender-Responsive Assessment Tools: including interview guides, workshop templates, and gender-integrated metrics for project assessment
- Institutional Gender Mainstreaming Note with recommendations to strengthen gender-responsive processes in climate-service institutions.
- Recommendations for Inclusive Climate Services providing actionable steps to enhance accessibility, usability, and trust of climate forecasts among marginalized groups.
- Gender Integration Framework tailored to seasonal climate services and aligned with decision-making and service delivery workflows.



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- Gender-Sensitive MEAL Inputs including indicators and learning components for integration into the project's MEAL framework.
- Operational Gender Tools such as checklists, templates, and guidance notes for gender integration in project design, workflows, logframes, budgets, and risk management.
- Training & Capacity-Building Materials plus technical support for strengthening gender mainstreaming among ACMAD, RCCs, NMHSs, and partners.
- Technical Inputs to Project Deliverables including contributions to reports, assessments, and the final project roadmap.
- Final Consultancy Report summarizing results, lessons learned, and long-term gender mainstreaming recommendations.

2.4. Contractual Arrangements

- Nature of the appointment:** The Gender Expert will be contracted for **Six months**, with the possibility of extension based on performance and project funding and needs.
- Salary:** Salaries and benefits will be commensurate with experience and qualifications of the candidate. Per diems will be allocated for international travel.
- Duty Station:** The position is based at ACMAD, Niamey, Niger, with possible field missions within Africa.
- Date of duty:** As soon as possible after notification

2.5. Application Process

Interested candidates who meet the above criteria (see section 2.3) should submit:

- A detailed updated CV
- An application letter outlining relevant experiences and motivation
- Certified true copies of Degrees and Certificates
- Contacts of three referees from previous positions or projects
- A brief methodology of one or two pages which describes how the applicant intends to address the assignment

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