

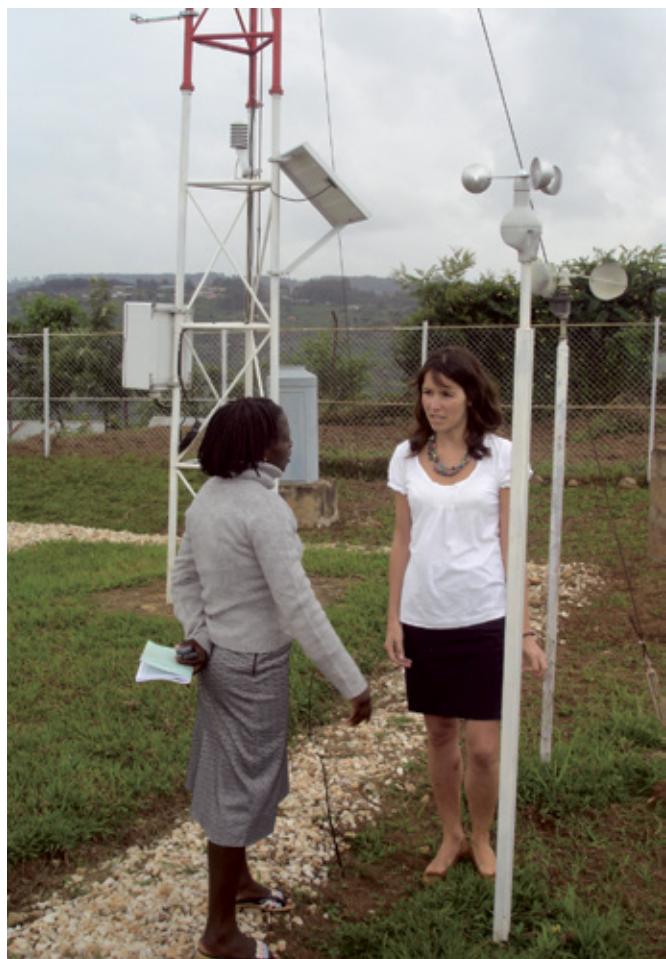
## Institutional strengthening



Helping improve working practices to support modernisation and growth plans

**The delivery of weather and climate services by national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs) is critical for wellbeing, socio-economic development and protecting communities. Undertaking this effectively requires a firm organisational foundation in order to improve technical and scientific capabilities and deliver accessible services.**

Political, social and economic factors can impact the organisational strength of NMHSs. With experience of working with NMHSs across the globe, we can use our expertise to work in partnership and offer consultancy and training to provide direction and improve working practices.



Providing consultancy services in Rwanda

## What is involved in institutional strengthening?

Initial work with an NMHS usually consists of a situational assessment to establish the strengths of the organisation and the areas for development. With the aim of improving the organisational infrastructure of the NMHS, we then typically provide consultancy, mentoring and training in areas such as business strategy, staff professional development, management, operating procedures and alignment with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) standards and in-country priorities. Met Office staff are experts in a range of disciplines such as business, human resources, finance, science and meteorology, and are able to provide guidance and joint working to develop robust plans for future growth.

Collaborative work with senior managers ensures that an NMHS has the infrastructure to support modernisation and growth plans by improving working practices. These provide a firm foundation for technical and scientific improvement and clear directions for people.

## Benefits

- A development plan tailored to the specific needs of the NMHS.
- Improved working practices across the organisation.
- A robust organisational structure supporting modernisation and growth plans by ensuring that staff are committed, retained and have a clear purpose.
- Improved infrastructure helps the development of more efficient and relevant services.
- A raised profile with the WMO and development agencies.



## Rwanda's Meteorological Service (RMS)

RMS struggled to restore its operations following the 1994 genocide and sought consultancy from the Met Office in order to build capacity and strengthen the organisation. A Met Office consultant was based in Rwanda for a year, working closely with RMS staff and Met Office technical experts to create and implement modernisation action plans. Among other projects, RMS was supported in setting up a management team, implementing a Quality Management System and providing guidance on creating proposals to attract development partners. Building relationships throughout this process helped deliver sustainable change with a firm foundation for further improvements.

*"The Met Office's consultancy has helped our service to rediscover itself, to focus and work towards a common goal as a united organisation."*

**John Ntaganda Semafora**  
Director, RMS

## Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Service Administration (PAGASA)

Typhoons are one of the most dangerous natural hazards. They cause considerable loss of life and immense damage to property. Typhoon Haiyan, which affected the Philippines in November 2013, was one of the strongest ever recorded. Ensuring that society is sufficiently resilient and prepared requires the development and delivery of effective weather and climate services. The Philippines Department of Science and Technology (DOST), which incorporates the national meteorological service, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), sought consultancy from the Met Office to support its weather information services to improve crisis preparedness and response to reduce vulnerability and economic loss in the Philippines.

Part of this project involved reviewing working practices and the systems for forecasting and warning of severe weather. The subsequent human resource development aimed to raise in-country competence and compliance to standards and develop techniques to better disseminate weather warnings and information to stakeholders and the public. The project resulted in PAGASA issuing improved warnings and more consistent communication of forecasts of significant weather events to the Philippine Government stakeholders and population, ultimately helping to save lives.



## Who we are

The Met Office is a global centre of excellence in weather and climate science, and the UK's national weather service. Founded in 1854, the Met Office pioneered weather forecasting. Ever since then we have been at the forefront of developments in weather and climate science.

## Our international development work

We draw on our scientific and operational strengths to offer practical advice and specialist consultancies. Our wide range of skills and expertise enable us to support countries around the globe in developing and enhancing their weather and climate services.

## What makes us different?

As an international organisation, we are exposed to many challenges and have a reputation of meeting and exceeding expectations. Our strong track record includes:

- experience of working in over 150 countries;
- a pool of internationally-experienced specialist staff;
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO) accredited training;
- a thorough understanding of how weather and climate are linked to development goals and policies;
- design of impact-based forecasting for WMO policy;
- supercomputing capacity for sophisticated modelling;
- developing one of the most accurate regional meteorological models in the world, now adopted by Australia, South Africa and South Korea.



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