

Welcome to the June 2023 issue of our WISER newsletter

WISER Programme Coordination

The WISER Programme will shortly be welcoming a new Programme Manager to the team, who will be providing leadership across the entire portfolio of regions. Details on this exciting new appointment will be made for the next newsletter in September.

The WISER Programme is also currently recruiting for a Project Manager to support delivery of WISER Asia Pacific. Further details on this role and how to apply can be found at the [Met Office vacancies page](#).

WISER Africa

WISER Africa East and South inception workshop



An inception workshop for WISER Africa was held in Dar es Salaam from 28th February to 3rd March.

Opened by Dr Ladislaus Chang'a, Acting Director General of the Tanzania Meteorological Authority and attended by over 30 participants, the workshop provided a unique opportunity to bring together in one place partners in East and Southern Africa, the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and Met Office, UK, personnel working throughout the programme.

Enhancing seasonal forecasting with AGRHYMET



In April 2023, Regional Climate Centre for West Africa and the Sahel, [AGRHYMET](#), was supported by WISER to enhance capacity for objectivity in seasonal forecasting, and to strengthen the Regional Forum on Climate Outlook for the Sudano-Sahelian Region (PRESSAS) forum's impact on the region.

This was delivered through a dynamical seasonal climate forecasting training for young scientists across all National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the Sahel and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region. WISER also supported with some of the costs of the PRESSAS Climate Outlook Forum.

The five-day workshop, developed collaboratively between AGRHYMET and the Met Office, aimed to train a new generation of scientists on methodologies and tools. This included the basics of climate forecasting, models and tools used for climate data analysis and to derive seasonal/intra-seasonal parameters, access to climate data for seasonal/intra-seasonal forecasting, and generation of an objective seasonal forecast using dynamic approach.

Agricultural sector weather and climate information services training in Niger



WISER Africa supported the Niger Met Services - Direction de la Météorologie Nationale du Niger - in delivering a project on the potential of weather and climate information services (WCIS) in supporting adaptive capacity of agricultural communities in weather and climate risk management.

To this end, in May 2023 the Niger Met Services delivered a training on the use of weather and climate information for agricultural practices, and engagement around user needs.

The training supported rural producers, community radio hosts (national radio, media partners platform "Studio Kalangou"), municipal agricultural and livestock technical agents from seven administrative areas across Niger.

This was to improve access to and understanding of climate information services through various tools and techniques for communicating and disseminating climate information, and enabled enhanced climate risk management decision-making and adoption of risk management best practices in key agricultural areas in Niger.

Capital Expenditure (CapEx) Project progress

The Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) capital expenditure (CapEx) project is progressing well. KMD has completed civil works in readiness for the installation of the Automatic Weather Station at Pwani University and a tidal gauge at the port of Mombasa. The engineers from KMD and the contractor will visit the United States for factory test assessments of the equipment in July after which they will be shipped to Kenya.

The Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) is procuring up to four Automatic Weather Stations to support improved data collection, processing and dissemination of agrometeorological information for planning and decisions. TMA is currently advertising the tender.

Rwanda Meteorological Agency (RMA) intends to upgrade the National Climate Data Centre to enhance data services. RMA are currently re-advertising the tender as unfortunately there were no successful bids in the initial call.

All the projects are still within the delivery window with their latest timelines.

[Find out more about WISER Africa](#)

WISER Middle East and North Africa (MENA)



Based on the need identified in the WISER MENA [Scoping Report](#) for deeper awareness of how weather and climate information can support resilience building in the region, in early 2023 a training session was organised with UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) climate attachés working in MENA to channel and disseminate key messages.

This training described what weather and climate services are, how they are made, who produced them and how they can inform decisions relevant to a range of sectors in the region which help them to withstand and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.

Throughout March and April, WISER MENA published a Call for Proposals for a value of 1.4 million. The Call focused on strengthening Anticipatory Action to build resilience within Internally Displaced People (IDP) and refugee populations to weather and climate extremes and variability through supporting forecast based early action in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Palestine. We look forward to sharing the outcome of the call soon.

In June, through WISER MENA, Met Office, UK, staff visited Maroc Meteo to explore ambitions and opportunities to enhance seasonal forecasting for Climate Outlook Forums in the region. The meeting with the long-range forecasting team enabled discussions on knowledge exchange to support objective seasonal forecasts that can be tailored to meet the needs of users.

Upcoming WISER MENA opportunities

WISER MENA will soon release upcoming opportunities for projects that encourage innovation in the communication and use of weather and climate information, for example in terms of new ways of engaging with specific groups so they are better able to understand and act on information. Whether that's using technology to improve how weather information is communicated and understood, use of social media to share weather and climate information, or bringing together producers and users of weather and climate information services through coproduction and alliance building. Keep an eye on our [opportunities](#) page for updates.

[Find out more about WISER MENA](#)

WISER Asia Pacific

From April 2023 WISER expanded to include WISER Asia Pacific, funded under the UK government [Climate Action for a Resilient Asia \(CARA\) programme](#) by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and will run until February 2029. Geographically, this WISER programme will provide support to South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific islands – and will support transformational change in weather and climate services.

A scoping assessment was undertaken (2022-2023) with numerous stakeholders across the regions. Gaps, barriers, needs and opportunities for WISER support were emphasised, and key themes identified that the programme intends to focus on.

The inception and design phase of WISER Asia Pacific is currently underway, taking place until late 2023. It will interface and link to other CARA components, where already several opportunities for alignment and integration with partners have been identified. This phase will also further engage with regional stakeholders to refine and develop specific priorities and interventions for the programme.

Climate Action for a Resilient Asia (CARA) workshop



The first in-person CARA partnership meeting took place in Delhi over 11-12 May, and provided an opportunity for partners to present and share workplans. A key focus of the workshop was to identify opportunities to link and align related programmes and activities across CARA, to be further discussed with partners over the coming months.

The meeting also included discussion on approaches to monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) under the overall CARA performance framework and finance and reporting obligations for partners.

79th Economic and Social Commissions for Asia



Over 15-19 May, the Met Office, UK, under WISER Asia Pacific, supported the UK government delegation at the [79th Session of the Economic and Social Commissions for Asia](#). This event was guided by the theme “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development” and provided an opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation on climate change.

This included Met Office, UK, participation in panel discussions at a side event on ‘Disaster Resilience: Early Warnings for All in Asia and the Pacific’ and showcasing how some of the major UK government funded weather and climate initiatives such as the [Weather and Climate Science for Services Partnership \(WCSSP\)](#), [Climate Action for a Resilient Asia \(CARA\)](#), and WISER Asia Pacific are supporting development of early warning across the region and how these can support the [UN ‘Early Warning for All’ initiative](#).

Further development of the region's approach to ‘Early Warnings for All’, informed by the above session will be discussed at [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific \(ESCAP\) Disaster Resilience week](#) in Bangkok over 24-27 July 2023.

Contact us

If any colleagues would also be interested in receiving this newsletter, do ask them to subscribe by [emailing us](#).

You can also keep up to date by viewing the [Met Office web pages](#) and following our Twitter hashtag #UKaidWISER.

Supported by:



© Crown Copyright 2023 | [Please click here to unsubscribe](#)

