



## WISER newsletter - October 2021



### **Welcome!**

Welcome to the latest issue of our WISER newsletter. We hope you will find this interesting and that it will keep you informed of the work the WISER programme is undertaking. 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 and ACPC web pages, joining our LinkedIn group and following our Twitter hashtag #UKaidWISER.

### **WISER East Africa**

#### **Fund Management**

#### **WISER Phase 2 Extension**

In July this year, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) granted Met Office an extension to WISER Phase 2 to 31 December 2021. The aim of WISER's extension is to build on successes, and embed key learnings from the WISER 2 Partner Learning Event held in April 2021. WISER has now commenced extension delivery through strands including Met Office led partnership support, ICPAC Project Grant activity, and Technical Assistance to WISER Fund Management.

**Met Office led partnership support includes:**

- A refresh of the State of Climate Services report which was delivered ahead of the commencement of WISER in 2015 called Scoping, Options Analysis and Design of a Climate Information and Services Programme for Africa (CIASA). The refreshed report will provide an updated view on the current state of climate services in Sub-Saharan Africa, including reflections on what WISER set out to do and achieved, and developments in climate services over the last six years since the first report was produced.
- Working with East Africa partners to co-develop a shared view of complex and compounding climate risks in the region as perceived by local communities and sector stakeholders.
- Building on WISER's investment in ICPACs computing and IT facilities through the W2-SIP project, Met Office will provide IT training to ICPAC to enable National Meteorological and Hydrological Service representatives to work more independently on the ICPAC cluster to deliver tailored forecast products and support the co-production of services with their key stakeholders.

**ICPAC were awarded a grant to build on the achievements of its WISER Somalia and South Sudan project. The grant will focus on three core activities:**

- Supporting opportunities to develop a central mandated hub for Somalia climate services.
- *Sustaining the newly formed East Africa Climate Services Community of Practice:* The 'East Africa Climate Services Community of Practice' was established under WISER's TRANSFORM project, which closed on 31 March 2021. ICPAC have since taken ownership of the Community of Practise (CoP) to ensure its sustainability. The aim of the CoP is to mainstream climate services through enhanced inclusivity and regional cross-sectoral learning. This will be achieved by engaging Weather and Climate Information Service (WCIS) providers with climate champions, prominent figures, influencers, practitioners, youth, and women around key WCIS themes
- Increasing access to learning and best practice for stakeholders involved in WCIS co-production processes in fragile state contexts. This will be achieved through development of a report providing case studies and best practice on WCIS in fragile contexts.

**Support to WISER Fund Management, to build on learning from WISER 2's Partner Learning Event to focus on:**

- Development and use of a Sustainability Toolkit to enable WISER to better understand whether the outcomes and key results of Phase 1 projects and the national project in Uganda under Phase 2 have remained intact, or have even continued to grow post-WISER.
- Development of a WISER Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Action Plan. The aim of the plan is to enable WISER to move toward making GESI a core objective of effective climate service uptake.
- Revised socio-economic benefit (SEB) guidance that better supports project teams to implement SEB analysis from the start of projects and programmes

We're excited to see each of the strands progress over the final months of 2021. In early 2022 we'll look forward to sharing outcomes and successes of WISER's extension with you.

**WISER Partner Learning Event Outputs**

Recently we have launched a series of Learning Briefs following the TRANSFORM project's outputs from the Partner Learning Event held in April 2021. Each Learning Brief has a specific thematic learning focus:

- [Co-production policy brief](#)
- [Gender policy brief](#)
- [Funder policy brief](#)
- [National Meteorological and Hydrological Services policy brief](#)

## Introducing Sam Magne, WISER Programme Manager

It's a privilege to be joining the WISER programme. I began my professional life working in and with communities experiencing extreme weather and its effects, including very remote communities in Africa, Asia and the Caucasus. I had the opportunity to understand life and its challenges through families and local colleagues in temperatures of minus 20 heading close to 50 degrees. Now joining WISER, I am mindful that the term 'the last mile' describing the distance between generation of information and its practical use can be 100s of miles, spanning many variables, shaping lives, landscapes and opportunity to take action. So it's a privilege to be part of work among communities in Africa who are wise to the last mile co-production challenge and who, with our partner colleagues, lend their lived-experience wisdom to ensure the effects of WISER continue to tangibly and powerfully enhance resilience and response to climate change.



## WISER Knowledge Management

### End of Phase 2

To mark the end of phase 2 of the WISER Programme, [a press release](#) and [accompanying blog by Kate Ferguson, Programme Manager](#) has been published. These highlight the strong impacts from the programme including over £200 million in avoided losses, 3.3 million households with increased access to weather and climate information and 8.2 million individuals with better resilience to weather and climate related shocks.

### Phase 2 Extension

Throughout the Phase 2 extension, continued development of resources including project and programme level infographics, brochures, personas, case studies, blogs and more will become available to use. Please visit [these web pages](#) for resources that are currently available and we look forward to sharing more with you across our [Met Office Worldwide Twitter](#), [Met Office Global Partnerships LinkedIn](#) and [WISER LinkedIn Group](#).

## WISER PEEC



## **CR4D top organs converge in Dakar to endorse five-year Strategic Plan**

A two day joint meeting of the top-organs of the Climate Research for Development in Africa (CR4D) initiative took place in September 2021 and endorsed the implementation plan of its five-year strategy (2019-2023).

This joint meeting which brought together CR4D's expert members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Institutional Collaborative Platform (ICP) took place in Dakar, the capital of Senegal. The organs endorsed a five-year strategy implementation plan.

Since its launch, the CR4D initiative has served as a convergence roundtable bringing together scientists, practitioners, institutions and development actors to deliver and continuously improve accessibility and quality of end-user priority climate information needs. CR4D represents an African-centred demand-driven shift in dealing with climate change and development on the continent.

It is significant to note that the ACPC serves as the Secretariat of the CR4D Initiative and spearheaded in the development of the five years Strategic Programme. This was undertaken with the aim of maximizing the opportunities presented by climate variability and tackling the challenges posed to the socioeconomic development efforts in Africa.

It is also significant to note that the two-day joint meeting greatly enriched the 5-year Implementation plan which is formulated in accordance with the three knowledge frontiers identified in the Strategy document. These are foundational climate science, Impact, information, translation and communication; and engagement with policy, development and decision-making communities. The strategy document has also identified research thematic areas falling under each knowledge frontier, alongside proposed projects and the corresponding budgets.

Further information on the event is available [here](#)



## **ACPC to Showcase Research Outputs from the CR4D Postdoc Fellowships**

As part of the CR4D five-year strategic plan, the initiative disbursed grants to the first cohort of 21 post-doctoral researchers from Africa in June 2019. The grants were for an initial period of 12 months, which was subsequently extended to 18 months to allow for adequate in-depth engagement with the issues under

investigation. Funded research focused on foundational climate science, climate change impacts and policy/advocacy knowledge frontiers. The research initiative is playing a critical role in mobilizing African climate researchers around a unified climate research agenda, in addition to building the capacities of young African climate scientists through cross-regional exchanges, fellowships and secondments.

Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the fellowship resulted in at least 87 publications in the form of journal articles, blogs, policy briefs and book chapters. Moreover, because of the CR4D fellowship, about 50% of the fellows reported promotions and career growth while 67% were engaged in other research activities. Additional and new grant funds were secured by several CR4D postdoc fellows during the implementation of the CR4D fellowships.

As the research has now ended, it is imperative that the researchers be accorded, as part of their scientific development, an opportunity to share their work with the diverse scientific community at COP26.

The ACPC activities at the Africa pavilion will spotlight the WISER-funded CR4D post-doc research outputs and increase CR4D reputation and chances of success in Africa. Moreover, the CR4D will embrace a variety of activities and tools to promote its work, connect with development partners, and engage in scholarly discourse. The format will include presentation, video coverage, posters, and general discussion.

Read more on CR4D [here](#).

#### WISER knowledge and learning

The WISER knowledge management strategy has been developed to ensure that knowledge from the programme benefits other weather and climate projects and programmes.



#### WISER knowledge and learning

A large amount of knowledge has already been developed during the programme, and this is shared on the [Met Office](#) and [ACPC](#) webpages. Do take a look to see whether any of this information is relevant to your own work and keep checking back for new information.

#### **The Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER) programme**

*Delivering transformational change in the quality, accessibility and use of weather and climate information services for sustainable development in Africa*

#### **WISER East Africa**

Aimed at improving the quality and relevance of weather and climate information, and supporting its uptake and use across the East Africa region.

**Fund Manager:**



## WISER Policy & Enabling Environment Component (PEEC)

Focused on creating an enabling environment and stimulating demand for climate information service uptake and investments at the highest level of policy making.

**Fund manager:**



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