

GHACOF 48

Meeting notes from event participation



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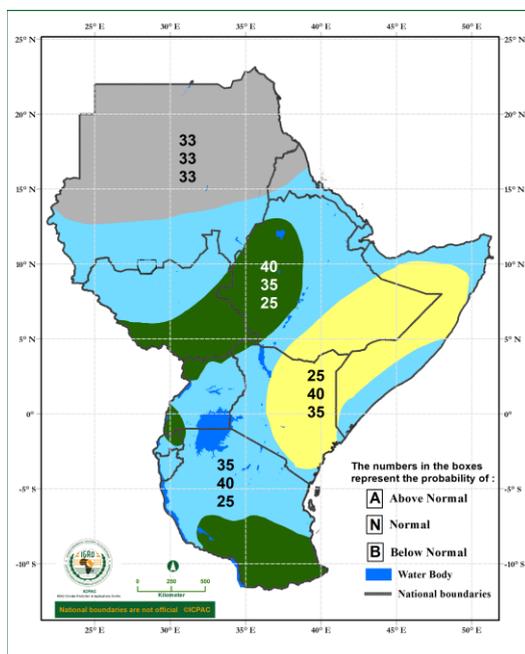


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The Climate Outlook Forum

The Forty Eighth Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 48) was convened from 12 to 13 February 2018 at the Sarova Whitesands Spa and Beach Resort, Mombasa, Kenya by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) and partners to develop a regional consensus climate outlook for the March to May 2018 season over the GHA region. The GHA region comprises Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The forum reviewed the state of the global and regional climate systems and their implications on the March to May seasonal rainfall over the region. Among the principal factors taken into account were the observed and predicted sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the global Oceans. Users from agriculture and food security, livestock, water resources, disaster risk management, Health, Conflict Early Warning, Non-Governmental Organizations and development partners discussed the potential implications of the consensus climate outlook, and developed mitigation strategies for their respective countries and sectors. The consensus climate outlook for March – May 2018 is as shown below.



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Panel Discussion: WISER Phase 1 achievements and lessons learned

Background

The WISER programme, funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) is providing up to £35 million over four years (ending March 2020) to enhance the resilience of African people and economic development to weather and climate related shocks. The programme aims to improve the generation and use of the weather and climate information across Sub-Saharan Africa, with an initial focus on the East Africa region.

The WISER programme has two main parts:

- (1) A pan-African programme focussing on improvement of the policy and enabling environment for weather and climate services (PEEC). This is mainly being achieved through support to the Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC).
- (2) A regional programme primarily focussing on the East Africa region (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) (WISER-EA) aimed at improving the quality and relevance of weather and climate information and supporting its uptake and use.

In the Phase 1 of WISER-EA, five 'quick start' projects were commissioned and completed in June 2017. Support for a further six months for bridging activities was provided to sustain progress and extend successful activities. The three Phase 1 projects which were discussed during GHACOF 48 were:

- a) Expanding and Strengthening ENACTS (Enhancing National Climate Services) availability, access and use across Eastern Africa
- b) Strengthening Climate Information Partnerships – East Africa (SCIPEA)
- c) Decentralized Climate Information Services for Decision Making in Western Kenya

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Phase 2, which consists of a combination of regional and national projects underpinned by a focus on co-production of services and user engagement commenced on 1 July 2017 and will run until the end of March 2020. Phase 2 will aim to balance taking forward successful aspects of the Phase 1 work but also support new initiatives seeking to improve weather and climate services in the region.

The primary objective of the regional projects will be to support the development of a range of weather and climate services at the regional scale – either where there is demand regionally, or where they can be accessed and used nationally. Particularly, the regional programmes will promote the development of global, regional and national linkages and making of products and services available for regional or national use.

The objective of the national projects will be to support the development of new and improved services for national and sub-national use in line with the particular needs in the country, and their effective delivery, supporting and enhancing capabilities of NMHSs in line with their strategic plans. Again, work at national level will incorporate processes of co-production and focus on the improvement of service delivery.

This panel discussion provided an overview of the **results and impacts** of Phase I activities for three projects.

An overview of the planned interventions for Phase 2 was discussed on 13th February during the panel discussion on **Partnerships**.

Panelists

1. Brief on SC�PEA - James Muhindi (KMD)
2. Brief on Decentralised Climate Information Services for Decision Making in Western Kenya - Ayub Shaka (KMD)
3. Brief on ENACTS - Desire Kagabo (User Perspective)
4. Brief user perspective (Kengen) – Willis Ochieng
5. Brief user perspective Food Security and Nutrition working group (FSNWG) - Zita Ritchie(FAO)

Facilitator: *Mr. John Mungai*, Chairperson: *Mr. Mojwok Ogawi*, Rapporteur: *Mr Herbert Misiani*

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The facilitator thanked ICPAC for giving WISER a chance to explain the progress of WISER program. He informed the meeting that the first phase of WISER project started in 2016 and that the second phase of WISER 2 which started in July 2017 for some projects is expected to run until March 2020. The purpose of the session was to provide an update of the kick start projects from representatives of the (NMHSs) as well as a few users of Climate Information Services (CIS).

SCIPEA: James Muhindi (KMD)

Mr. Muhindi informed the meeting that through SCIPEA more forecast products were added including local scale information that addressed local user needs such as farmers. These include: local distribution of rainfall, forecast information on rainfall amount, onset and cessation, runoff assessment and forecast, drought forecast using standardized precipitation index, and frequency of rainfall intensity. It was noted that the benefits so far experienced including the improvement in forecast information as observed in the previous forecast (OND, 2017), expresses the need for the continuity of the SCIPEA programme and the extension of the services and the benefit so far amassed.

Decentralized Climate Information Services for decision-making in Western Kenya: Ayub Shaka (KMD)



The project assisted in the development of meteorological early warning systems. Capacity needs for users and KMD as a climate information producer was conducted so as to create an understanding on what users need and the capacity to fulfill those needs. The process improved user understanding, communication and uptake of climate information products, and also through co-production processes, new user oriented products were generated. This process also improved the working relationships between agricultural extension workers and farmers through provision of

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agricultural advice such as seed variety to plant. Climate information uptake by the fishing community was also improved through the provision of hazard information (thunderstorms and strong winds) in a timely manner. Other information that users requested included; characteristics of seasonal rainfall (e.g., start, peak and decline dates), and rainfall amounts expected. Significant uptake of the climate information was realised in addition to promoting the integration of climate information in County development plans, through the engagement of county development officers.

Summarized Benefits:

- Production of County Climate Information Service (CIS) plans - framework that defines the requirements and strategy for the delivery of weather and climate services in the counties
- Improved communication, understanding and use of weather and climate information-appropriate communication, interaction with CDMs, county administration, local media prefer standardized county products. County Climate Outlook Fora (CCOF) have facilitated the understanding through sectoral experts interaction
- Improved provision of downscaled climate information. This was complemented by training CDMs in the use of downscaling tools; FACTFIT, GEOCLIM, GEOCOF, ETC. which help users to visualize seasonal forecast better.
- Lesson learning, and monitoring and evaluation to inform the development of climate services in the region: Developing decentralised Climate Information Services (CIS) is a process that entails wide range of actors and forms of collaboration. Therefore, MEL necessary to register changes.

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ENACTS: Fetene Teshome (National Meteorological Agency of Ethiopia)



The use of ENACTS has improved the quality and access of climate data and in turn the generation of climate information to the end users. ENACTS has also helped in tackling the challenges related to climate data in Ethiopia brought about by declining number of weather stations, geography and terrain of certain areas, limited investment and political conflicts. Station records are merged with satellite estimates to produce gridded dataset at 4km grid resolution. The dataset produced is available for manipulation through a user platform called the Maprooms. This web based tool has promoted the use of climate information as well as providing climate data in

remote areas.

User Community perspectives

KENGEN: Willis Ochieng



The main sources of energy in Kenya include the following types: thermal, hydro, wind and geothermal. A large portion of KENGEN's power generation is highly dependent on weather. Hydro-electric power generation is the only one which is more reliable. WISER programme has improved the partnership between KENGEN and KMD, through co-production and availing of the forecast in good time. This partnership between KENGEN and KMD has helped KENGEN to plan, manage and synchronize other forms of power generation hence saving Kenyans from power

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rationing.

ENACTS in Rwanda: Désiré Kagabo



ENACTS has improved the provisions of essential climate information to end users and this has enabled informed decisions. This was achieved through the Rwanda Climate services for Agriculture (RCSA) Project which has availed climate information such as onset/cessation dates of rainfall, dry spells, season length among others to approximately 720, 291 farmers. Users can now interact with climate data and access climate information from the Rwanda Maproom hosted by the Rwandan Meteorological Agency which was enabled through the partnership with WISER-ENACTS. Merging of satellite and station records

has also enabled Rwanda to obtain rainfall estimates for the period when there was civil strife in Rwanda. The utility of climate information to farmers was quite evident from the over 10 testimonies from the farmers themselves where in some cases, farm productivity quadrupled.

Zita Ritchie (Food Security and Nutrition Working Group- FAO)

The working group, which is led by ICPAC with support from FAO, usually meets monthly and produces monthly bulletins and alerts. The information is mainly targeted at high-level government officials and humanitarian organisations. The efforts of WISER in enhancing climate information has enabled them provide early warning information for early action. The group plans to use the climate information to assess other climate vulnerable areas such as livestock production.

Discussion Points

After the presentations, which were well received, the audience engaged in discussions and some of the some of the salient points/comments include the following:

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- i) SCIPEA has empowered ICPAC, and regional scientists with skills to produce targeted climate information using simple tools such as Excel spreadsheets and open source software such as R.
- ii) One participant from Ethiopia appreciated the success stories of availing climate information to end users and wondered whether there were plans to upscale this to all of the GHA region.
- iii) The diversity in local knowledge shows that every community has cultural climate knowledge and there was need to integrate the scientific knowledge with indigenous knowledge (IK)
- iv) A participant from Uganda congratulated the meteorological Agencies and WISER for the improved quality of production of climate information but it was noted that the main challenge is in communicating the climate information to the end users.

With regard to iv) above the meeting was informed that WISER would be implementing projects in phase 2 which would address some of the outstanding issues including communicating CIS to the users on the ground.

Partnerships session, 13th February 2018

The following presentations were made during this session on Partnerships:

- i) WISER Programme: **DfID**
- ii) GEOTOOLS and their applications to support decision making: **Abebe Tadege**
- iii) Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) for Kenya Water Towers: **Dr Hussen Seid**
- iv) Progress on the CCAFS Climate Services for Africa: **Dr J. Hansen**
- v) ACREI: **WMO/FAO/IC**

During this session Mr. Mungai presented WISER Phase 2 projects on behalf of DFID. The following projects were enumerated in some depth.

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- **HIGHWAY** (High Impact Weather Lake System) – focussing on development of a regional short term (1-5 days) severe weather early warning system around Lake Victoria (led by WMO)
- **ICPAC Support** - focussing on the improvement of the development uptake and use of sub seasonal, seasonal and long-term timescale products and services for regional application and cascading down to the national level (led by ICPAC)
- **Weather and Climate Information for Decision Making Challenge Fund** projects - to provide support to organisations (not supported elsewhere by WISER) who have a regional presence and significant reach to use weather and climate information better in their decision-making. NECJOGHA/BBC Media Action
- **Research and Learning around Co-Production, Uptake and Use of Weather and Climate Information, Evaluation and Transformational Change** –to provide a particular focus on incorporating co-production and research (including equity and behaviour change) across all WISER-EA projects, provide evaluation and track transformational change across the programme.
- **Capital Equipment** - procurement of capital equipment that directly supports the development and delivery of new and improved weather and climate services. This will include support around operation and maintenance of new equipment where this is required. The HIGHWAY project includes for assessment of how new capital investments can best be made to support improved regional services and how these are cost effectively made, and what ownership, operation and maintenance arrangements are most appropriate.
- **AMDAR** - The Aircraft Meteorological DATA Relay (AMDAR) will establish a meteorological observing programme facilitating the automated reporting of meteorological atmospheric information from Kenya Airways' fleet of aircraft, which will provide cost effective improvements of observational data in the region (led by WMO).

Also presented were other DFID/Met Office projects in the region.

- Future Climate For Africa (FCFA) – IMPALA (Improving Model Processes for African cLimAte) will deliver a step change in global model climate prediction for Africa on the 5-40 year timescale by delivering reductions in model systematic errors, resulting in reduced uncertainty in predictions of African climate and enabling improved assessment of the robustness of multi-model projections for the continent.

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- Building resilience and adaptation to climate extremes and disasters (BRACED) programme. Building capacity in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia to find transformational solutions to climate variability and disasters by climate forecasting, behavioural change & sharing skills & technology.
- CAROT - The overall delivery objective is to enable TMA to support citizens of Tanzania to make climate-smart decisions based on relevant, reliable and accessible weather and climate information. Priority sectors highlighted by the Tanzania Meteorological Agency are Agriculture, Marine, DRR, Transport
- FCFA Regional Consortium. The Met Office is acting as a key member of three regional consortiums in West, East and Southern Africa. In East Africa HyCRISTAL will look to increase understanding of east Africa rainfall trends to support resource planning in the agricultural sectors.

The DFID session was well received. A number of participants thanked DFID for its efforts to enhance CIS in the Greater Horn of Africa. However, a few points of clarification were raised. A participant from Somalia wanted to find out whether there would be a Somalia specific WISER project. The answer was that a project on Somalia and other states was being developed. It was also pointed out that regional projects would be very useful...the presenter agreed and pointed out the support to ICPAC project in this regard. It was also pointed out that in as much as it was proper to support NECJOGHA, some support for NMHSs was also necessary to enhance communication between users and providers of CIS. Indeed this was pointed out to be the approach in the BBC Media Action / NECJOGHA project. Another participant wanted assurance that the learning from the prior (phase I) projects was not being lost. It was pointed that some learning from the 1st phase was being taken forward in phase 2 and that since phase 2 had many more projects and hence much more learning, a dedicated project on research and learning would be implemented by SouthSouthNorth.

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Advancing the use of gridded, online climate information for risk management in the Horn of Africa – side meeting organised by ICPAC, CCAFS and WISER ENACTS

ICPAC, WISER-ENACTS and CCAFS Climate Services for Africa hosted a side meeting to GHACOF48 that aimed to advance shared understanding, between climate information users and providers, of how the GHACOF process and member country NMHS can support more effective use of climate information. WMO (Mark Mojadina) chaired the meeting while WISER (John Mungai) was the facilitator. The dinner meeting brought together representatives from member country NMHS, experienced agricultural and food security users and champions of climate information, ICPAC, WMO, and WISER and Climate Services for Africa project partners. The programme included welcome remarks from the sponsors, brief demonstrations of developments in climate information Maprooms at ICPAC, and their use for agriculture in one-member country (Rwanda), followed by a panel discussion of climate information providers and experienced agricultural users.



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The panelists were: Dr. Zewdu Segele (ICPAC) Dr. Philip Omondi (ICPAC) Dr. Evelyne Kumutunga (Uganda) Ms. Claudette Nkurunziza (Burundi) and Dr. Desire Kagabo (Rwanda).

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