

CCDA-VII report

Climate Change and Development in Africa

Introduction

The 7th Climate Change and Development in Africa conference took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 10 to 12 October 2018. The WISER programme was represented at the event by members of the Met Office and ACPC WISER teams as well as WISER projects.

CCDA-VII was organised under the auspices of the ClimDev-Africa consortium (a partnership of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB)), in collaboration with the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA).

The theme of the event was *'policies and actions for effective implementation of the Paris Agreement for resilient economies in Africa'*. CCDA-VII built on the outcomes of CCDA-VI, which focused on understanding the Paris Agreement's implementation implications, nuances, challenges and opportunities for Africa in the context of the continent's development.

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Participants

CCDA-VII brought together participants from various constituencies including researchers, policy makers, multilateral development banks, academia, parliamentarians, government officials, the private sector, civil society, youth, women groups and the media.

Overview of event

The CCDA-VII conference was preceded by pre-events that included a session organised by the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) on the socio-economic benefits of climate services.

The Minister responsible for Environment and Forestry in Kenya, Mr. Keraiko Tobiko, officially opened the conference. In his address, he stressed the need for incorporation of indigenous knowledge in the communication of early warning services. He also outlined the need for gender inclusivity in climate change actions. He noted the need to review the progress since the first CCDA to determine the extent to which recommendations from previous conferences informed policy and concrete action; and challenged the conference to be keen on follow-up actions regarding recommendations to ensure they are translated into policy and actions by respective governments. He also noted the threat climate change poses to economic development and informed the conference that in recognition of this threat, the Government of Kenya had set up a Climate Change Council, chaired by the President.

As with other parties to the Paris Agreement, African States have, through their nationally determined contributions, undertaken to reduce their emissions through various actions focusing on eliminating fossil fuel-based and land use-based emissions. The objective of CCDA-VII was to interrogate Africa's nationally determined contributions and define actionable agendas regarding them.

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In order to explore the above, various presentations were made at plenary and parallel sessions, and exhibitions for dialogue and interaction were held as well as pre-events and side events for specific stakeholders.

The key presentations of the conference can be found [here](#).

A conference report can be found [here](#).

WISER side event

Participants

The side event attracted 31 participants from various organisations in Africa. Among them were climate information service providers, users from various socio-economic sectors, governmental and non-governmental organisations, climate scientists and civil society stakeholders, among others.

Agenda

The side event was organised and delivered jointly by WISER (ACPC and the Met Office). The objective of the session was to highlight WISER's approaches to developing climate services and policy influencing. The WISER Coordinator in East Africa moderated the sessions.

The Agenda of the meeting was as follows:

Time	
10.30 - 10.35	Introductions – summary of WISER emphasizing it has operational and policy influencing components
10.35 – 10.50	Achieving impact – Phase 1 of WISER- EA Outline of Phase 2 projects and what they are planning to achieve
10.50-11.15	The Pan-African Component of the WISER programme: Progress on Enhancing Enabling Environment for CIS and Climate Research for Development in Africa (CR4D)
11.15 - 12.00	Improving Impact through Co-production. Overall approach, case studies. Raise awareness/interest in upcoming publication

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	WISER project examples of co-production/policy engagement: WISER Western (CIDPs/County Climate Plans), W2-SIP, DARAJA (Working with residents/city planners)
12.00 – 12.30	Group Exercise - Identify barriers to co-production/policies/procedure changes for improving co-production in your organization
12.30 – 1.00	Discussion

Remarks

Frank Rutabingwa (ACPC) and John Mungai (Met Office) set the side event in motion through short remarks. They informed the participants that the event was convened to highlight the work that WISER programme was doing in Africa in support of climate information services, as well as to explore co-production issues as they relate to climate information services. Participants were informed of the two components of WISER and the link between Climate Information Services and development was established. The meeting was informed of some of the principles of WISER including development of user led services, which underpins co-production in all the completed and ongoing projects. The meeting was also informed that the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) was the funding agency supporting the 4-year programme.

Presentations

The following presentations were made:

1. [Co-production and policy engagement - Calistus Wachana](#)
2. [WISER Phase II_PEEC - Yosef Amha](#)
3. [WISER East Africa - John Mungai](#)
4. [TRANSFORM Zablon Owiti](#)
5. DARAJA - Vera Bukachi

Highlights from the presentations are as follows:

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WISER East Africa

Mr. John Mungai presented to the meeting a snapshot of WISER East Africa. He informed the meeting that phase one of WISER had been concluded and phase two was well under way with a portfolio of projects, both national and regional. He informed the meeting that WISER was working through established institutions in the region and supporting both state actors (weather and climate information institutions) and non-state actors (intermediaries) in order to develop the capacity of relevant regional stakeholders and thereby deliver wide-reaching, usable, improved weather and climate products and services anchored on principles of co-production and user engagement. He also ran through all the WISER East Africa projects to demonstrate the various economic sectors being impacted by the programme and also some of the early successes of WISER.

He ended his presentation by encouraging the participants to visit the Met Office website for more detailed information on the programme including impact stories that are being generated with information from those that the programme has impacted.

The Pan-African Component of the WISER programme: Progress on Enhancing Enabling Environment for CIS and Climate Research for Development in Africa (CR4D)

In his presentation, Mr Yosef Yamha made the following points:

Since the increasing complexity of climate change challenges requires that policy analysis support be provided to Africa's decision makers in developing response strategies, the Pan-African component of WISER, led by the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), had conducted analytical studies to strengthen the enabling environment for the generation, uptake and use of weather and climate information services (CIS) to support sustainable development in Africa. The participants agreed that the customized socio-economic benefits models for disaster Risk Reduction and agriculture-water-energy nexus are useful tools for policy makers and practitioners to make evidence-based decisions on CIS investment.

The Pan-African component of WISER will launch the African-led small but potentially scalable research grant management facility and support Climate Research for Development (CR4D) research priorities.

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Improving Impact through co-production

In his presentation Mr. Zablon Owiti made the following points:

- i) The aim of the TRANSFORM project is to create a learning and exchange environment within the WISER programme and beyond to apply co-production approaches, better understand the drivers of user uptake of weather and climate information, and to provide support in measuring the socio-economic benefits and value for money of climate services.
- ii) The TRANSFORM project was working to support all of the WISER projects on co-production and to develop case studies of climate services developed by the projects and other non-WISER projects.
- iii) Highlighted the WISER co-production principles and process.
- iv) Cited two examples of co-production case studies within WISER projects.
- v) Indicated the final output would be a co-production guideline distilled from the case studies.

WISER Western (CIDPs/County Climate Plans), W2-SIP

Mr. Calistus Wachana made the following points in his presentation:

- i) WISER Western Kenya had succeeded in downscaling national forecast to county level.
- ii) The uptake of CIS was greatly enabled through participatory planning workshops.
- iii) Need to link national climate strategies to the county and community levels.
- iv) CARE was supporting ICPAC to mainstream co-production practices.

DARAJA (working with residents/city planners)

Ms. Vera Bukachi made the following points:

- i) Outlined the work of KDI in Kibera.
- ii) Demonstrated how KDI mobilizes the communities in Kibera and other informal settlements to improve the living spaces in their neighbourhoods.
- iii) Demonstrated how extreme weather and climate events were affecting people living in informal settlements and explained how this situation would be ameliorated through the WISER project in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, which was expected to develop products and services to address existing climate related

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challenges in the informal settlements through co-production between National Meteorological Services and the communities affected.

- iv) Indicated the need to interest city planners in incorporating CIS in their planning as one of the long term outcomes of the project,

Group exercise to identify barriers to co-production and propose solutions to improving co-production

Ms. Jemimah Maina of CARE facilitated the group exercise. She formed four groups, which discussed the topic after which each group provided at least one barrier and recommendations. The following barriers and probable solutions were highlighted:

Barriers

- i) Lack of political good (no support from politicians)
- ii) Negative perceptions by users of CIS
- iii) Inadequate capacities of the users to interpret and use climate information
- iv) Communication barriers
- v) The user confidence or perception of information being given to them is a barrier in the provision of CIS
- vi) Scientists complicates information through use of language that is not understood by all so there are language barriers to provision of CIS
- vii) Packaging the message and advisories

Suggested solutions

- i) Advocacy and awareness creation especially targeting politicians, citizens and also introduction of citizen science to make public appreciate climate information
- ii) Need to build confidence and trust between the CIS producers, providers and end-users through improved co-production mechanism
- iii) Need to apply different channels of communication (internet, radio, mosques, churches, opinion holders, coffee times in Ethiopia, etc.) to different end users through feedback mechanisms for effective flow of information
- iv) Need to differentiate between exchange of information and exchange of meaning in the context of communicating climate information
- v) Access to information to the level of the user. Target users at different levels - policy makers to final user

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- vi) The language needs to be simplified and acceptable to everyone
- vii) Scale up climate information to make it continental. Consolidate it to ensure access to finance
- viii) Rope in other stakeholders beyond the weather agencies (intermediaries, knowledge brokers) to translate climate information into advisories and also into local languages
- ix) Learn user needs (co-exploration of the problem)
- x) Capacity building
- xi) Community education and engagement
- xii) Need for increased investments in climate information services
- xiii) Need to consolidate the various African programmes/initiatives on climate information including WISER efforts under a more continental platform driven by AUC, UNECA and civil societies for better coordination, communication and reach out

Feedback

Some of the participants provided feedback regarding the side event. They were asked to rate the session on a scale of 1 – 5 (5 being best) with regard to usefulness of the event. These were some of the responses:

- Good Presentations - precise and to the point. Very useful. **Score 4**
- Message was received. A lot of knowledge was passed. Thank You. **Score 4**
- Useful for those not familiar with WISER. Group work always more engaging interesting and results in a lot of valuable knowledge...give more time for group work and fewer presentations
- The session on WISER was excellent!
- Usefulness of session **score 5**
- Very useful **score 4** (Score 5 if we had more time in the participatory session). Thank You!
- Very useful information. **Score 5**

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