



WISER newsletter - January 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



Investing for sustainable climate services: Insights from African experience

Effective climate change adaptation depends on strong, sustainable weather and climate information services. A new report and policy brief, commissioned by WISER through the SouthSouthNorth TRANSFORM project, and written by global think tank ODI, provide a roadmap for investing in sustainable capacity, based on African projects' experiences.

African countries are expected to be hit hard by climate change, and unpredictable and extreme weather is already having a significant impact on people's lives across the continent. Well-functioning weather and climate information services can save lives and livelihoods. In order for African communities and businesses to adapt more effectively to the inevitable impacts of climate change, these services ('climate services' for short) must be strengthened as comprehensively as possible – the researchers say.

ODI's report 'Investing for sustainable climate services: Insights from African experience' looks at the support provided to strengthen weather and climate information through the WISER programme from 2016 to 2021.

The report found that improvements may be easily eroded if investment is not backed up by long-term plans to work with African institutions to keep climate services operational and local knowledge up-to-date after the projects end. The report's recommendations include consolidating professional networks on the ground and producing sustainable business models that are in sync with national development priorities. Read the full report and policy brief here: [Investing for sustainable climate services – Insights from African experience](#).

Co-produced Impact-based Early Warnings and forecasts to support fishing communities on Lake Victoria

A main focus of the WISER High Impact Weather Lake System (HIGHWAY) project, led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), has been to address the need for improved, accurate early warning systems to prevent deaths and damage due to storms and strong winds in the Lake Victoria Basin. To enhance quality and increase uptake of local forecasts, national and regional co-production workshops were held in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. The workshops brought together National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS) staff, fishermen and Beach Management Unit (BMU) representatives, local government staff, media, and international development managers to share knowledge and skill sets. NMHSs shared the concept of an impact-based early warning system, and end-user participants like fishermen and BMU representatives shared their experiences of how severe weather affected their lives and livelihoods, and how they made work-related decisions.

NMHSs took the lessons from these workshops to strengthen their services. The co-production process resulted in twice-daily forecasts, issued when day- or night-fisherfolk are making decisions about going out on the Lake. The forecasts contain clear information for different sections of the lake and used colour-coded warnings and easy-to-understand icons that provide relevant information and inform of potential risks.

To ensure sustainability after the project, WhatsApp groups were created and messages with forecasts are shared with BMUs and community leaders, who relay important information to fishermen, post notices, or raise flags at landing sites as necessary. Local radio stations also receive forecasts and translate advice into local languages, ensuring the widest reach possible.

WISER PEEC



Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) best practices

Recently, the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) published the African Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) best practices authored through a collaboration of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), African Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The document was realised through meetings of the African RCOF's knowledge partnership (consisting of all African RCCs, WMO and a few selected Regional Economic Communities (RECs)), held under the auspices of the WISER programme, policy and enabling environment component (PEEC). The partnership meetings led to a rich collection of material consisting of procedures, lessons and practices that RCCs utilise in producing seasonal forecasts, organising RCOFs, engaging stakeholders and seeking feedback for use in improving seasonal weather forecasts.

While the knowledge shared was benefiting the RCC focal persons who participated, ACPC took the initiative to support the publication of this knowledge into a document that can serve as a reference by all RCCs. The final document is [available here](#).

Scientific papers on policy enabling environment for CIS and climate research

Through ACPC, UNECA is currently developing two scientific papers as a compilation of outcomes, key messages, lessons and best practices emanating from implementation of the WISER Pan-Africa project. The first paper is on the policy enabling environment for climate information services (CIS) production and investments in Africa.

The paper's knowledge compilation will include the social economics benefits of investing in CIS, awareness and outreach undertaken for policy makers and influence groups (such as women, youth, civil society and members of parliament) and CIS coordination in Africa.

The second paper covers the climate research for development (CR4D) work stream of the Pan-Africa component of WISER, including the intellectual leadership ACPC has undertaken in the region through climate research innovative evidence generation and learning. Specifically, the paper will include the key strides and lessons from the establishment of the CR4D governance structures, as well as the development of a research grant management framework and implementation of African climate research priorities.

Other news

Future Climate for Africa CP-4 Africa guide

A new guide from the Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) programme provides a practical overview of CP4-Africa, the first pan-African, kilometre-scale convection-permitting regional climate simulations, run as part of

the FCFA research team [IMPALA](#) (Improving Model Processes for African Climate). The simulations have provided an unprecedented level of climate detail across Africa and initial studies have shown improvements in the simulation of many, but not all, aspects of the African climate.

Some examples of key advances emerging through CP4-Africa simulations include better representation of:

- [The spatial distribution of daily rainfall patterns](#);
- [The characteristics and intensity of rainfall](#); and
- [Annual cycles of tropical-extratropical cloud bands](#).

In addition to producing improved simulations of the current climate, CP4-Africa simulations provide [enhanced projections for future rainfall extremes](#) across Africa. Download [this guide](#) now to learn how to access CP4-Africa data and run your own convection-permitting simulations over Africa.

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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