



## WISER newsletter - July 2020



### 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

#### Rainfall in the Sahel

The London School of Economics and Political Science has had an open access paper published in the Climate Services journal, following work for the WISER programme on 'Decision Making in the Face of Rainfall Uncertainty'. Titled 'Applications of interannual-to-decadal climate prediction: An exploratory discussion on rainfall in the Sahel region of Africa', the paper explores how climate services may potentially incorporate information emerging from the new science of interannual-to-decadal (I2D) climate prediction in the Sahel region of West Africa. Read the paper [here](#).

## New resources: Using environmental psychology to increase use of climate information

CSAG surveyed and interviewed decision makers in East Africa to understand why they do or don't use climate information, using an environmental psychology approach. They have produced a set of resources:

- Infographic: [Designing climate services for action](#)
- Policy Brief: [Using environmental psychology to increase the use of climate information](#)
- Working paper: [Using environmental psychology to increase the use of climate information](#)

Please take a look and share with your networks!

## Seasonal forecast explainer videos



A series of explainer videos on 'Seasonal forecasts: from Science to Services' are now freely available on the [Met Office Science and Services YouTube channel](#). They were motivated and developed through the [ASPIRE](#) project, which has been working to enhance the uptake and effectiveness of seasonal forecasts in the Sahel region of West Africa.

The videos provide an accessible source of information with introductory explanations on key topics. These include what a seasonal forecast is, how they are generated, understanding terciles, forecast skill, the Regional Climate Outlook Forum process and case studies of their application. Met Office presenter Alex Deakin interviews experts who provide clear and concise explanations, delving into technical detail where necessary. The target audiences are those new to seasonal forecasts as well as users in different sectors, such as those working in the agriculture, water, energy and humanitarian aid.

Versions with subtitles in West African French will be released in the same place in the upcoming weeks. We hope these videos will prove valuable for other weather and climate projects.

If you would like more information, please contact [Jessica Stacey](#).

## WISER PEEC



### **Partners review implementation of data sharing policy mandated in World Meteorological Organization resolution 40 in Africa**

A number of barriers continue to impede efficient weather and climate data sharing in Africa. These include the voluntary nature of WMO resolution 40, in which the twelfth WMO Congress recognised the right of Member States to choose the extent to which they make meteorological and related data products available, both domestically and to stakeholders abroad. National legislation may also restrict access to meteorological and related data, including on grounds of national security. Finally, governments often lack a clear understanding of the value of data sharing and tend to consider meteorological and related data as commodities for which fees can be charged to offset the costs of meteorological infrastructure and equipment.

To address the foregoing issues, in partnership with Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) through the Pan-African component of the WISER project reviewed the application of WMO resolution 40 in the African context to support Climate Information Services (CIS) development for sustainable climate change adaptation and resilient development. The activity involved a desk study followed by validation of the findings by 15 climate scientists from the partner institutions. Key outcomes of the study are outlined below:

- Amend and strengthen WMO resolution 40 (Cg-XII) and extend the scope of WIS (WMO Information System);
- Win-win business relationships that benefit both data providers and users should be fostered;
- Harmonise technical procedures for data discovery and access;
- Strengthen the Regional Climate Centres and policy coordination;
- Convene regional data monitoring meetings in all African regions;
- Establish a regional data sharing authority.

The full report of the study will soon be published on the [WISER PEEC website](#).



### **Climate Research for Development in Africa (CR4D) develops five-year strategy implementation plan**

In pursuit of the CR4D agenda, the ACPC as the Secretariat of the CR4D initiative has developed a draft five-year climate research strategy implementation plan with the aim of maximizing the opportunities presented by climate variability/change and tackling the challenges posed to the socioeconomic development efforts of Africa.

Once reviewed and approved by the CR4D Scientific Advisory Committee, the implementation plan shall provide a roadmap to the implementation of the climate research for development strategy 2020-2024 including the scope, core principles and values of CR4D, vision and missions, strategic goals and objectives. Furthermore, it also includes a CR4D theory of change, impact pathways and targets in line with the three CR4D knowledge frontiers (KF) to derive their expected outcomes (immediate/intermediate/ long-term) and impact(s).

On the CR4D research thematic areas, the plan also provides a brief narrative for each thematic area identified in the five-year CR4D strategy followed by respective objective(s), flagship activities, Key Milestones, Operational Activities and expected outputs. Read more on CR4D [here](#).

### **Enhancing Climate Information Services (CIS) dissemination and uptake through the private sector**

Private sector engagement in the provision of CIS in Africa will contribute to the efficiency of CIS if the enabling environment is provided for their operation. In Africa, the provision of CIS has been the responsibility of governments through the NMHSs. However, African governments lack sufficient resources necessary to empower the NMHSs to operate effectively, although there is a high recognition of the importance of weather and climate information. Moreover, CIS has a long value chain and governments alone cannot effectively provide the service.

A study commissioned by ACPC through WISER underscores the need for the engagement of the private sector in the production and delivery of CIS to enhance the provision of location-specific downscaled, reliable, timely and user-friendly weather/climate information and support climate resilient development, climate-informed policy and decision making processes.

As a follow-up to the outputs/recommendations of the WISER sponsored study, the ACPC has developed a comprehensive project document and leveraged additional funds from a Sweden project titled “Delivering climate resilient development policies in Africa”, as well as from the Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD), in an effort to deepen understanding of the issues and to implement the recommendations of the study.

The final report of the study is undergoing copy editing and will be available on the [WISER PEEC website](#).

### 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:**



### Contact us

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