

CONCEPT NOTE

**MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE INFORMATION
IN THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA REGIONS**

**Friday 22 November 2024
2-3:30 PM GMT+4
CARICOM Pavilion**

1. BACKGROUND

The Eastern and Southern Africa regions are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, experiencing frequent droughts, floods, and unpredictable weather patterns. These changes have significant implications for agriculture, water resources, health, infrastructure, and overall socio-economic development. The timely provision and integration of climate information into decision-making processes is critical for enhancing resilience, reducing risks, and fostering sustainable development.

Climate information spans a range of timescales including the short term (weather forecasts) to the extended range (weeks to a month ahead), monthly to decadal climate predictions, long term climate change projections, and observations and climate monitoring (current and past). The climate information timescale determines the types of impact-based climate-related actions that can be planned for, either preparatory, responsive or recovery. Despite the growing availability of climate data and services, challenges persist in mainstreaming this information into policies, planning, and practices at the regional, national, and local levels. Barriers include limited technical capacity, insufficient data accessibility, inadequate institutional frameworks, and a lack of awareness among key stakeholders.

The Intra-ACP Climate Services and related applications (ClimSA) Programme is an initiative of the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) funded under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) aims to strengthen the climate services value chain: from access to information, generation and provision of climate services to engagement and capacity of users to ensure utilisation of these services. One of its key objectives is to mainstream climate services into regional and national policies, programming, and development plans, thereby reducing vulnerability to climate impacts and variability, and ensuring sustainable development across the six ACP regions.

To this end, both SADC and IGAD have made significant progress in mainstreaming of climate services into policy processes. For instance SADC, through the ClimSA Programme, has developed a mainstreaming guideline designed to assist non-climate specialists who are responsible for mainstreaming climate information and/or services to do so with adequate signposted support as



and when required. Similarly, IGAD/ICPAC conducted high-level meetings, provided technical support, and coordination with policy makers in climate sensitive sectors at national and regional levels. Additionally, IGAD/ICPAC assisted the member states in developing their national framework for weather and climate services.

2. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of this side event is to discuss and showcase the efforts and best practices for integrating climate information into decision-making processes across the Southern and Eastern Africa regions and identify synergies with the Caribbean Region.

The specific objectives are to:

- Create awareness on the importance of integrating climate information into sectoral planning and decision-making processes
- Discuss how and the extent to which climate information and/or services are being mainstreamed into a policy/strategy/plan in SADC and IGAD regions and draw parallels with the ones in the Caribbean region
- Share experiences, lessons learned, and best practices in mainstreaming climate information across various sectors among the Regional Climate Centres.
- Discuss and showcase the draft mainstreaming guideline developed through the SADC-ClimSA program
- Discuss the challenges for mainstreaming climate information in national and regional policies, strategies, and development plans.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- i. Enhanced understanding of the importance of mainstreaming climate information/services into policies, strategies, and development plans.
- ii. Promote the sharing of best practices among Regional Climate Centres
- iii. Collect feedback on the draft mainstreaming guideline.
- iv. Insights and recommendations for improving the integration of climate services into policies and planning.
- v. Strengthened networks and partnerships to support ongoing and future initiatives in the two regions.

4. PARTICIPANTS

The following stakeholders will be invited to participate in the discussion:

1. IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) - TBD
2. African Centre of Meteorology Application for Development (ACMAD)
3. Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
4. Centre Climatique Régional pour l’Afrique de l’Ouest et le Sahel (AGRHYMET)

Speakers: TBC

5. FORMAT AND METHODOLOGY

The format of the participation in COP29 will be done jointly done by RCCs as a side event under the CARICOM Pavilion. The side event will include a combination of presentations and panel discussions. The presentations will set the stage by providing an overview of the current state of climate information integration in the two regions. Panel discussions will share their experiences and insights

6. CONTACT EVENT ORGANISERS:

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