



An initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States funded by the European Union

CONCEPT NOTE

Theme of the side event:

ENHANCING CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES: BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

1. BACKGROUND

National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) play a crucial role in providing accurate and timely weather, climate, and hydrological information. These services are fundamental for safeguarding lives, supporting economic activities, and building resilience to climate change. However, many NMHS in Eastern countries face significant challenges in terms of capacity, resources, and infrastructure. These challenges limit their ability to deliver quality services and meet the growing demands of various sectors, including agriculture, disaster risk reduction, water management, and public health. Capacity development is essential to empower NMHS to overcome these challenges and enhance their ability to provide reliable and actionable information.

The Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) programme is designed to strengthen the climate services value chain—from accessing and generating climate data and information to the provision and effective utilization of these services by both producers and users. A key objective of the programme is to develop and implement a comprehensive capacity-building plan that addresses strategic and thematic issues at both regional and national levels. This plan aims to enhance the capabilities of meteorological services and stakeholders at every stage of the climate services value chain, in alignment with the Competency Framework for Climate Services.

Through the ClimSA programme, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) has actively supported National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) across Eastern Africa. This support includes providing scholarships for the professional development of NMHS personnel, facilitating access to state-of-the-art High-Performance Computing (HPC) systems, and procuring advanced workstations for enhanced data processing and analysis. Additionally, ICPAC organizes annual foundational and pre-GHACOF capacity-building workshops, which are crucial for equipping NMHS staff with the latest knowledge and skills in climate modeling and prediction. These efforts enable the production of more accurate and tailored climate products and services, thereby significantly strengthening their capacity to respond to the region's climate-related challenges.

This side event aims to highlight and share best practices, showcase ongoing initiatives, and explore collaborative opportunities to strengthen the capacities of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) in Eastern Africa and will reflect on synergies with other regions. The discussion will also explore on the essential need for institutional capacity building, human resource development, technological innovation, and sustainable funding mechanisms in both African and Caribbean contexts.



An initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States funded by the European Union

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the side event are to:

- Highlight ClimSA's achievements in enhancing the capacities of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in Eastern Africa.
- Share experiences, lessons learned, and best practices among the RCCs and other partners to effectively strengthen NMHSs through capacity building, innovation, and sustainable practices.
- Facilitate discussions on potential partnerships, funding opportunities, and collaborative projects that can further support the capacity enhancement of NMHSs, ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience.
- Emphasize the critical need for institutional capacity building, human resource development, technological innovation, and sustainable funding mechanisms as key pillars for the effective functioning of NMHSs in East Africa and the Caribbean.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Increased Awareness:** A deeper understanding of the critical role of NMHS and the challenges they face in delivering essential services.
- Knowledge Sharing:** Best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches will be shared among participants, contributing to the enhancement of NMHS capacities globally.
- Strengthened Partnerships:** New collaborative opportunities and partnerships will be identified, leading to potential joint projects and initiatives to support NMHS.
- Insights and recommendations** for strengthening NMHS, particularly in the areas of institutional capacity, human resources, technological innovation, and sustainable funding in East Africa and the Caribbean.

4. PARTICIPANTS

The following stakeholders will be invited to participate in the discussion on the above title subject:

1. IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC)
2. African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)
3. Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) RCC Network
4. United Nations World Meteorological Organization (UN WMO)

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 discussions.

6. CONTACT EVENT ORGANISERS:

- ICPAC: Dr Hussien Seid, Email: Hussen.Seid@igad.int
Mr Zachary Atheru, Email: zachary.atheru@igad.int
- ClimSA: Dr Nsadisa Faka, Email: nsadisa.faka@acp.int
Ms Michela Paganini, Email: Michela.paganini@acp.int