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ClimSA is an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States funded by the European Union

**CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE LAUNCH EVENT  
OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> EDF INTRA-ACP CLIMATE SERVICES AND RELATED  
APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME (ClimSA)**



## 1. Background

The 79 Members of the OACPS, whilst having contributed the least to green-house gas emissions, are amongst the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. Indeed, amongst the Members of the OACPS, Forty (40) are Least Developed Countries (LDCs), fifteen (15) are Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and thirty-seven (37) are Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The paradox is that while their vulnerability to climate-related impacts is comparatively high, the coping capacity of OACPS Members is very low, thereby impairing their pursuits in achieving the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and for SIDS the SAMOA Pathway. Yet, OACPS regions are already experiencing devastating effects. Extreme weather events are increasing at an alarming rate, with temperature and rainfall patterns become ever more erratic. With the world already locked into high levels of emissions, the most severe impacts of climate change are expected to be felt for decades to come. These changes in climate cause loss of life, damage public and private property, affect productivity and threaten OACPS' members longer-term development efforts to reduce poverty. If nations are ***to avoid losses from climate shocks and stresses, or reap the potential benefits from changing climatic patterns***, governments, the private sector and MSMEs, and communities need accurate, timely and accessible climate information services (CIS), to inform their decisions.

Provision of reliable information on climate change and climate variability may contribute to building resilience to climate impacts. Science-based climate information is therefore critical for guiding climate smart decisions, policies and planning in the six regions of the OACPS, thereby enabling climate risks to be addressed in an effective and timely manner. The Secretariat of the OACPS and the European Commission agree with the recent reports of the IPCC which state that the impacts of climate change pose an increasing threat to all OACPS countries that have the least capacities to adapt.

It is in this context and in order to meet the needs of OACPS members, that the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications Programme (ClimSA) was concluded between the European Commission and the Secretariat of the OACPS.

The goal of the Intra-ACP ClimSA Programme, with a budget of EUR 85 million and implementation period of 6 years, is to support the climate information services value chain. It will provide technical assistance, financial assistance, infrastructure, and capacity building to improve and widen access and use of climate information. It will seek to enable and encourage the generation and use of climate services and applications for decision making processes at all levels. Improving the quantity and quality of climate services offered by regional climate centres and hydro-meteorological organisations in the OACPS regions and increasing knowledge and information services will benefit economies, societies and the environment.



The action will contribute to fostering sustainable development, through the prevention of desertification, preservation of ecological biodiversity and the sustainable management and use of water in OACPS countries, by improving the decision-making process through informed adaptation options to climate variability and change. This action will strengthen the tools to connect climate services stakeholders and users in climate-sensitive sectors to resources, and to implement the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), at all levels.

## 2. The ClimSA Launch Event

The ClimSA launch event will take place on **30 March 2021, from 12h to 14h (CET)**

The **main objective** of the launch event is to inform all stakeholders in the OACPS regions of the signed Financing Agreement between the Secretariat of the OACPS and the European Union to implement the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF Intra-ACP Climate Services and related Applications Programme (ClimSA).

The **specific objectives** of the Launch are to:

- Raise awareness of the public, the media and the institutions active in the area of climate services on the objectives of the ClimSA Programme and share implementation status and intent;
- Raise the level of stakeholder engagement level to ensure success; and,
- Share knowledge and information on the challenges of providing climate services and the opportunities for scaling up solutions.

### 2.1. Expected Outcomes

- ClimSA Programme is better known and understood.
- Regional organisations perspectives of ClimSA Programme benefits shared.
- Opportunities for collaboration with other relevant initiatives identified.

**The aim of this event is to encourage the involvement of parties to take advantage of this investment to build the capacity of OACPS regions and countries to easily access and use climate data and information for their policy and practice decisions. This will increase their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, build resilience and enable the achievement of their sustainable development goals.**

### 2.2. Proposed main speakers of the event

- Master of Ceremony: OACPS
- Panel Moderator: Ms Leah Naess Wanambwa, AUC
- Timekeeper / Facilitator: Secretariat of the OACPS



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- Invitees include EUMETSAT, JRC, WMO, Regional and sub-regional partners (AUC, ACMAD, AGRHYMET, AMCOMET, CAPC-CA, CMO, CIMH, ECCAS, IGAD, IOC, SADC, SPREP) the secretariat of the OACPS, the European Commission, the EU Delegations and relevant International Organisations.
- Speakers will include: OACPS Secretariat, EC/EU, AUC, ECOWAS, EUMETSAT, WMO, ACMAD/AMCOMET, CMO/CIMH, SPREP, Copernicus

### 2.3. Proposed Key Messages for the roundtable

- **ECOWAS** – Benefits they do expect from CS for Agriculture / Food security in the region
- **ECCAS** - Way forward for the newly create RCC... challenges and perspectives
- **EUMETSAT** - Role of satellite in monitoring climate and weather. How data can be accessed
- **WMO** - Promoter of GFCS and related socio-economic benefits for developing countries
- **ACMAD/AMCOMET** – Their experience on climate services in MESA (for DRR and Health) + capacity gap in Africa for climate services (infrastructure / human resources)
- **CIMH** – Role of the RCC and how to work with the different sector alongside to NMHS (how to downscale properly)
- **SPREP** – Explain why CS are important for resilience to climate in the region + what is planned at community level (early warning)
- **JRC** – How Copernicus can help developing countries / challenges. JRC is developing a Climate station, what will be the benefit of the tool for the region.

### 2.4. The questions for roundtable

#### ECOWAS

- Please explain the main climate change challenges faced by your region.
- What kind of climate services are you expecting ClimSA to be established in your region and who will be the main users of these services?

#### ECCAS

- ECCAS has established a new Regional Climate Centre for Central Africa. What is the main mandate and expectation from the region? And when will the Centre be fully operational?
- How can ClimSA help the CAPC-CA deliver climate services to users in a sustainable way (continuation of the services beyond the project timeframe)?



## **EUMETSAT**

- What is the role of satellite data in monitoring climate in Africa? And what is the level of uptake and use of this data to generate products and services that help in decision making to improve livelihoods of communities?
- How will EUMETSAT contribute to the ClimSA programme?

## **WMO**

- Please explain GFCS and the role it will play in the ClimSA project.
- How will these efforts translate into socio-economic benefits for end-users in ACP countries?

## **ACMAD/AMCOMET**

- Please provide some examples of climate services currently being delivered by ACMAD and benefits for the users of these services.
- What are the main capacity gaps in Africa that ClimSA will help address?

## **CIMH**

- How do you work with various user communities to define the climate services needed to be delivered?
- What added value are you expecting the ClimSA project to provide to the Caribbean?

## **SPREP**

- Please share your experience in working with users at the community level on Early Warning Systems.
- What benefits are you expecting the ClimSA project to provide to the Pacific region?

## **JRC**

- What is Copernicus and how will it contribute to ClimSA?
- Please describe the main contribution from JRC to ClimSA.