

## **Africa Climate Research for Development (CR4D) Strategy Meeting**

### **Concept Note**

5-7 October 2014  
Marrakech, Morocco

Towards a sustainable mechanism for implementing the Africa Climate Research for Development (CR4D-Africa) Agenda

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Institutional Collaboration Platform Objectives and ToRs (draft)  
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### **Overview**

The Climate Research for Development (CR4D) Agenda is the outcome of the Africa Climate Conference 2013 (ACC2013, Arusha Tanzania, 15-19 October 2013). It is a proposed mechanism for integrating the Africa climate research community (scientists and institutions) to deliver on priority end user needs in Africa. The objective is to increase:

1. The understanding of end user needs for climate research, information and services in Africa
2. the understanding of the drivers, variability, and change processes in the African climate system and predictive capabilities at all timescales; and
3. the quality and relevance of climate information for users and stakeholder communities.

The intention is to build and enhance the necessary foundations required to deliver climate information and advisory services needed urgently by policy planners, adaptation decision-makers and vulnerable communities in Africa.

Recognizing that knowledge gaps constrain vital progress in the use of climate information for global development and transformations towards sustainability in Africa, CR4D activities will be facilitated and/or implemented to work towards these goals, taking cognizance of and leveraging existing initiatives on the continent. Such activities would include (but not be limited to); improving process/mechanistic understanding of the fully coupled climate system, enhancing observations and monitoring capabilities, improving model performance and skill of related regionalization methods, strengthening current predictive capabilities, and research on the communication, dissemination and adoption of regional information. This will enable and improve the delivery of climate information and advisory services needed urgently by policy planners, adaptation decision-makers and vulnerable communities in Africa.

To achieve these goals there is an urgent need to create an institutional Collaboration Platform for the Africa climate community to address to pressing constraints. First, the platform will build collaboration within the continent between organizations, institutions and individuals engaged in climate research and the operational delivery. Second the platform will offer a venue to inform donor partners to facilitate coherent international investment and engagement in user-driven and Africa-led climate system science. The platform undertakes this recognizing that legitimate ongoing competition needs to be balanced by the need for cohesion of intent within a common set of goals. The ACC2013 – co-convened by the African Climate Policy Center (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)<sup>1</sup> and hosted by the University of Dar Es Salam (UDSM), Tanzania - facilitated the exemplar of a cohesive voice to the international agencies (see ACC2013 Final Statement), and this uniquely African Platform is proposed as an institutional framework to sustain this initiative, to implement the Africa CR4D Agenda and, through this, to foster inclusive participation of the research community across Africa.

The continental scale of the CR4D Agenda recognizes region-specific climate system research questions, stakeholder communities and their information needs, infrastructure and capacity characteristics. The Agenda depends on the collaboration and interaction across scales - from global, continental, regional, national, and local scales - set both by the climate research landscape and the multiple scales on which societal needs operate. This is reflected in the proposed composition of the Collaboration Platform.

### **The Marrakesh Strategic Meeting**

The forthcoming Marrakesh meeting is called by ACPC and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), to

- formalize science research questions based on the frontiers of climate science in Africa that emerged as user priorities during the ACC2013,
- build consensus on an appropriate governance mechanism for the proposed CR4D Institutional Collaboration Platform
- agree upon a due process for implementing and sequencing CR4D activities, with appropriate legitimacy and accountability.

Through this, the meeting seeks a robust outcome for CR4D to achieve legitimacy with its key partners and stakeholders in Africa. This will enable CR4D to strengthen collaboration within the continent, and establish appropriate relationships between outside agencies and the leadership provided through CR4D.

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<sup>1</sup> The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), sponsored by the WMO, the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO aims at determining the predictability of climate and the effect of human activities on climate.

## Motivation

The [CLIVAR/GEWEX Africa Climate Panel](#)<sup>2</sup> initiated a process in 2011 to identify and prioritize a coordinated 'agenda' for climate research in Africa. This included the mapping of ongoing projects and activities, the start of an Africa climate research network, the publications of a [CLIVAR Exchanges Africa Special Issue](#) (Exchanges 2012), and the development of a scoping document, *"The African Climate Science Frontiers: Addressing Priority Research Gaps to Inform Adaptation Decision-Making in Africa"*, a living document that continues to evolve according to the recommendations of the scientific and stakeholder communities. The Frontiers Paper was presented at the [2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa \(CCDA2, 19-20 October 2012\)](#), then refined this according to the stakeholder response. This document proceeded to set the agenda of the [Africa Climate Conference 2013](#) community-wide consultation.

The recommendations of the ACC2013 are provided in the [ACC Statement](#) and are summarized as the Africa Climate Research for Development (CR4D) Agenda (Figure 1) with 4 core areas to drive the research community's agenda:

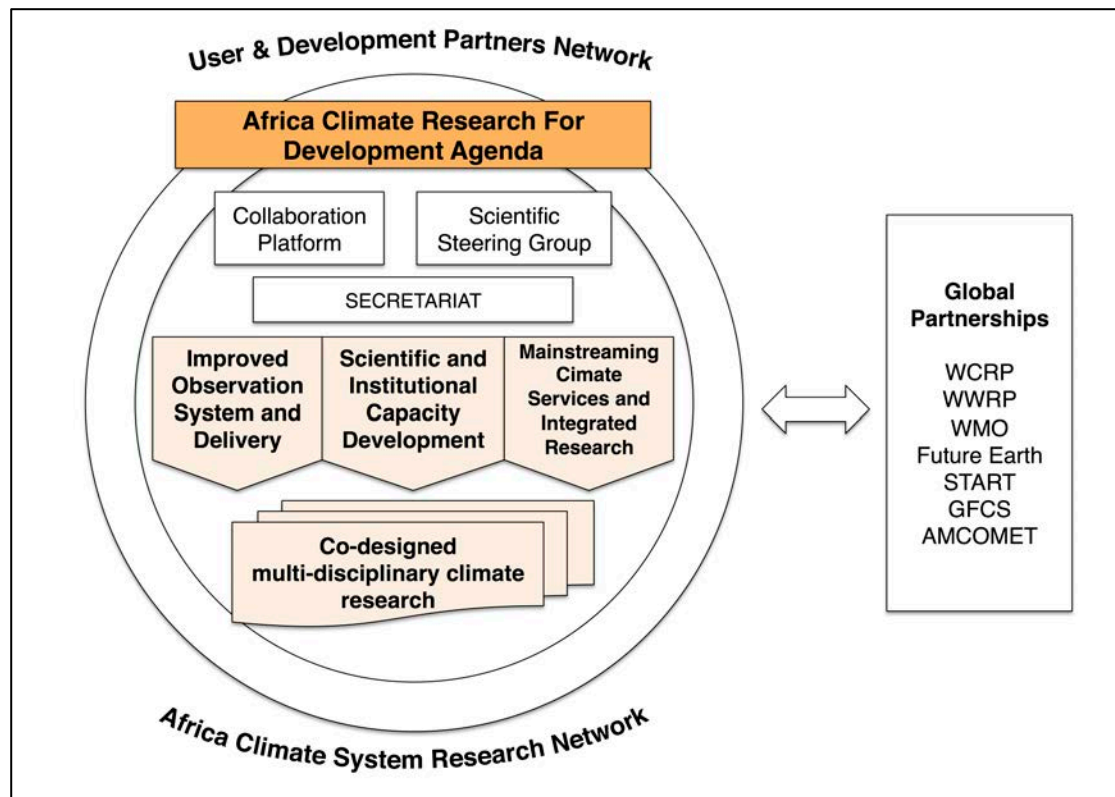
- a) multi-disciplinary end-to-end climate research,
- b) improved observing systems and data delivery,
- c) scientific and institutional capacity growth, and
- d) mainstreaming climate services.

While this agenda steers the climate research community, it is responsive to user/stakeholder community needs. The supposition is that the agenda would be guided by a Scientific Advisory Group and by a Collaboration Platform (Global Producing Centres for Long-range Forecasts; Regional Climate Centres; National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, universities, agencies etc.).

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<sup>2</sup> CLIVAR (for Climate and Ocean: Variability, Predictability and Change) and GEWEX (for Global Energy and Water Cycle Exchanges) Projects are two core programmes of the WCRP

Figure 1: Summary diagram of the Africa Climate Research for Development Agenda



The participants of the ACC were invited to present and discuss proposals for coordinated initiatives that the community would like to promote that will make significant progress towards critical aspects of the CR4D Agenda. Since the ACC, individual groups are taking these proposals forward, and will be formally presented at the forthcoming Marrakesh strategic meeting, scheduled for October 2014, ahead of the 4<sup>th</sup> Climate Conference for Development in Africa (CCDA4). In preparation for this Marrakesh meeting, the prototype Africa CR4D website is hosting a [Virtual Market Place](#) of proposals to facilitate sharing with and input from the community. The addition of new proposals in this online portal by representatives of the research community is actively encouraged.

The ambitious recommendations of the ACC require facilitating collaboration within the Africa climate research community, across existing projects (within WCRP and Future Earth) and in forging linkages with new regional and international partners. This depends critically on the provision of sustained support to: (1) foster the community proposals targeted at making significant progress; (2) strengthen and expand the Africa climate research network; (3) enhance coordination across ongoing and new activities; (4) promote collaborative opportunities and implementation activities; (5) facilitate the up-scaling of pilot projects; and (6) mobilize funding for network activities and new research initiatives. A major focus will be on supporting capacity growth initiatives.

## Meeting Outline

The meeting will convene key discussants needed to reach consensus on legitimacy in Africa: AMCOMET Secretariat, AU, NEPAD, ADB, ACPC, Clim-Dev Africa programme, Regional Climate Centers (RCCs), National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and universities representatives, plus the international scientific leadership and CR4D 'enablers': WMO, The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), WCRP, World Weather Research Programme (WWRP), The Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training Programme (START), Future Earth initiative. It would be used as an opportunity to strengthen the participation of the CR4D user communities.

## Participants

- Program representatives - WMO, WCRP, GFCS, AMCOMET, Future Earth, START
- AU, ACPC/UNECA, AfDB
- Regional Climate Centers (ACMAD, ICPAC, SADC-CSC, AGRHYMET) and NMHSs (WMO Regional representatives)
- University representatives
- Sectorial, Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability (IAV) and policy representatives
- International research partners

## Draft Agenda

A clear dialogue process is proposed for the actual meeting agenda to be the opportunity for face-to-face discussion for ratification and acceptance.

### October 05 - Day 0

CR4D has received a modest fast track grant from the Interim Future Earth Secretariat to consolidate a proposal for possible further consideration of support. This Write-shop day will focus on producing a modified "*Africa Climate Research for Development (CR4D): Network and Programme*" proposal, incorporating elements of the "*Seasonal and Sub-seasonal Forecasts: Connecting Developing Country Users to Climate Research Databases*" proposal and any other coordination that is important in Africa to this end. The result will be a consolidated single proposal to be submitted to the Future Earth Secretariat. Focus will be on 'mainstreaming climate information' and engaging users in Africa to understand their needs to define user-identified priorities for research.

### October 6-7 - Day 1-2

1/ Development of the CR4D governance mechanism

2/ Development of the CR4D Scientific Steering Committee



3/ Development of process for CR4D to continue engaging and reviewing end user needs (Sectorial, IAV and Policy representatives)

- Review of the Frontiers Document and CR4D Agenda
- Establishment and adoption of a sustainable process for re-engaging users to review priority information needs (Regional roadshows, CCDA-5, 2<sup>nd</sup> ACC conference, etc.)

4/ Definition and sequencing of a CR4D operational mechanism & calendar of activities

- CR4D Secretariat
- Africa Researcher Network
- Forming an Africa Donors Interface
- Round-table on multi-partner capacity growth strategy (START, WASCAL, SASSCAL, ICTP, TWAS etc)
- others

**October 08-10 - Day 3-5**

CCDA IV Climate Variability and Change: the delivery of actionable climate information for development.

- Plenary presentations
- Climate science break out session

**Expected Outcomes of the meeting**

- a) Agreement on a sustainable collaborative mechanism and steps to implement the Africa CR4D Agenda
- b) A proposal for an accountable governance structure, due process for establishing leadership, and institutional arrangement to manage and coordinate the CR4D Agenda.
- c) A proposal for the establishment of a Secretariat to support the implementation of CR4D that is aligned with the proposed governance.
- d) A proposal for the establishment of an Africa CR4D Science Steering Committee that is aligned with the proposed governance.
- e) Agreement on launch event of the CR4D Institutional Collaboration Platform (date and venue)
- f) A proposal for the FE write-shop; timeline and foci
- g) A calendar of activities for Implementation of pilot CR4D activities
- h) A proposal for developing one or two actions amenable to rapid implementation so as to gain a foothold on the CR4D meta-agenda to establish momentum, demonstrate participant commitment, and entrain a broader community of participants.

**Next Steps**

Follow with **Regional CR4D Engagement 'Road Show'** - across 5 African regions, organized in collaboration with the RECs, to seek regional ownership of the agenda, ensure agenda reflects regional priorities for research-for-development, and ensure inclusion and buy-in of all relevant national/regional

entities including ministries of research, NHMSs, academic and research institutions.

### **Supporting Documents**

African Climate Science Frontiers: Addressing Priority Research Gaps to Inform Adaptation Decision-Making in Africa  
Steering Committee for the African Climate Conference 2013

Africa Climate Conference Final Statement 2013  
Endorsed by ACC2013 Participants and CCDA3 2013 Participants

Addressing Climate-Related Challenges and Information Needs in Africa – Africa Climate Conference 2013; Arusha, Tanzania, 15–18 October 2013  
M. E. Shongwe, A. Pirani and S. Bekele, 2014. Eos Trans. AGU, 95(22), DOI:10.1002/2014EO220006.

Climate Sciences and Services for Africa – Strategic Research Opportunities for ClimDev - Report, 2014

Africa Climate Research for Development (CR4D): Network and Programme – Future Earth Fast Track Initiative/Cluster Proposal, A. Tall et al. 2014, accepted

Africa Climate Research for Development: Building a Cohesive Continental Framework – C. Kane, 2014, in preparation





## Appendix 1

### **Institutional Collaboration Platform Objectives and ToRs (draft)**

#### Collaboration Platform Objectives

To enable the implementation of the Africa CR4D Agenda, the Institutional Collaboration Platform will be the custodian of a high-level African consensus on Climate Research priorities for Development, cognizant of other developing (regional and global) initiatives and subject to periodic review and updates. It will promote the Agenda for endorsement by African governments and international development partners, to provide guidance relevant to policy (including ClimDev and GFCS) and allocation of funds. The Platform will foster and promote initiatives that will lead to tangible progress in the research and applications priorities identified by the ACC2013, conducting yearly monitoring of progress in implementing the CR4D agenda.

The Institutional Collaboration Platform will be advised on the climate research priorities by an international **Africa CR4D Scientific Steering Committee**, an impartial, transparent international body with a rotating membership, seeking to entrain and represent the priorities of African scientific, practitioner and policy communities.

#### ToRs of the Institutional Collaboration Platform

The Platform's ToRs are subject to periodic review and revision by its constituent climate research, service and policy institutions.

1. Develop and review periodically, as a consensus among its constituent bodies, an African Climate Research Agenda for Climate Services and Development ("the Agenda") that represents Africa's priorities for user-oriented climate science research - considering the outcomes of the African Climate Conference 2013 and working in liaison with the Scientific Advisory Group.
2. Conduct periodic reviews and updates of the Agenda priorities and monitor progress on the Agenda's implementation/realization.
3. Promote, nurture and support initiatives to advance the research priorities identified in the Agenda.
4. Facilitate the coordination of cross-regional learning, linkages and capacity-building on integrated multi-disciplinary climate research across regions of Africa, and nurture regional nodes of excellence in climate research for development across Africa.
5. Provide oversight (maintain an inventory) of all major climate research initiatives focusing on Africa and its sub regions and their contribution to the Agenda.
6. Promote the Agenda to governments and donors and encourage its use as guidance in prioritizing funding for Africa climate research. Develop enhanced mechanisms and forums to do so, also contributing to the GFCS.

7. Report on progress in implementing the agenda on an annual basis to ACPC, WMO, WCRP, WWRP, GFCS, AMCOMET and all relevant Africa-based and international institutions.
8. Maximize the impact of the CR4D coordination platform agenda by ensuring that its implementation is accommodative of a broad spectrum of governance brands of pre-existing, developing and future (regional and continental) programs to facilitate their full success



## Appendix 2

### Activities and Timeline for Preparation and Implementation of CR4D

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Lead Agency</b>
July – August	Engagement and mobilization of African climate science research community and stakeholders (RCCs, Met services, champions and researchers) to attend 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of CR4D Collaboration Platform (October 5-6) in Marrakesh, Morocco	ACPC WMO/GFCS AMCOMET WCRP
August - September	Development of ToRs for the CR4D Joint Scientific Advisory Committee	GEWEX/CLIVAR Africa Climate Panel WGRC ACC2013 SC Steering Committee
August - September	Development of a CR4D funding strategy	WMO WCRP ACPC
August – September	Logistical preparation of 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of CR4D Collaboration Platform (October 5-8) in Marrakesh, Morocco	ACPC
October 5, 2014	Meeting of CR4D Portfolio pitchers for Development of joint FE proposal	Future Earth WCRP
October 6-7, 2014	1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of CR4D Collaboration Platform (October 5-7) in Marrakesh, Morocco  Launch of CR4D Joint Scientific Committee	ACPC WCRP WWRP WMO GFCS START
October 8, 2014	Side meeting: Donor meeting & funding strategy presentation	WMO WCRP WWRP ACPC FE
October 8-10, 2014	CCDA – IV	ACPC

		WCRP to support run and conduct of day 1 science activities
November 2014 - 2016	Implementation of Africa CR4D Agenda activities (see tentative outline below)	ACPC WCRP WWRP WMO GFCS START

## Appendix 3

### **Secretariat support for Africa CR4D Agenda**

Proposal for a CR4D Office with responsibility for 5 different components of the CR4D initiative:

#### 1/ Africa CR4D Secretariat

- Mobilize funding and host arrangements for the Secretariat in the long term.
- Establish staffing requirements and Secretariat duties.
- Develop and run an appraisal of the success and impact of the Africa CR4D Agenda, reported on a yearly basis to the Scientific Steering Group, Institutional Collaboration Platform, the scientific community, partner and donor organizations, and the stakeholder community, including the ACPC Conference on Climate Change and Development.
- Maintain a communication and reporting between the Africa CR4D Agenda and related partners (WCRP, WWRP, GFCS, AMCOMET, WMO).
- Support the establishment a long term collaboration mechanism, funding mobilization and governance framework, based on GFCS-WCRP-ACPC White Paper (in preparation) and outcomes of 2014 CR4D meeting in Marrakech, Morocco.
- Support the process to establish and subsequent work of the WCRP CR4D Scientific Steering Group and Institutional Platform.
- Coordinate articles, review papers and journal special issues on programmatic issues, scientific results and information for stakeholder communities, including provision of the climate contribution to the yearly WMO Statement on African Climate.
- Develop and run an appraisal of the success and impact of the Africa CR4D Program, reported on a yearly basis to the Scientific Advisory Group, Coordination Platform, the Africa CR4D scientific community, partner and donor organizations, and the stakeholder community, including the ACPC Conference on Climate Change and Development.
- Coordinate cross-regional learning, linkages and capacity-building on integrated multi-disciplinary climate research across regions of Africa, and nurture regional nodes of excellence in climate research for development across Africa.
- Provide a direct linkage mechanisms between the Africa CR4D initiative and the soon to be established Future Earth Secretariat/regional hub for Africa (both global and the expected African regional secretariat node) ensuring that the African research agendas and needs are built into FE strategies from an early stage.
- Promote the Agenda to governments and donors and encourage its use as guidance in prioritizing funding for Africa climate research.

Develop enhanced mechanisms and forums to do so, including interaction with the GFCS and ClimDev.

## 2/ Africa Climate Research Network

- Further development of the [Africa Climate Research Network](#) (online database of contact and area of research information); complementing existing networks and Knowledge Exchange platforms, aiming to support integrated communication across the community at large. Expand the metadata to increase the accessibility of information about different parts of the broad spectrum of specialists within the Africa climate research community and to facilitate targeted communication.
- Engagement with donor agencies to mobilize support the network activities.
- Develop outreach and publicity material about Africa CR4D.
- Proactively increase the participation and inclusiveness of the community at large in the CR4D initiative.

## 3/ Africa CR4D Website: <http://www.africa-climate.org>

- Establishment and on-going development of the CR4D website as a resource of the CR4D and partner communities.
- Transition of the existing prototype website and network.
- Continued development of the website (information on the Agenda; community proposals and implementation activities; web-based catalogue of research activities and groups; the Africa Climate Research Network; calendar of events and noticeboard of funding and capacity growth opportunities, etc).
- Extend mapping activities of Africa climate research activities and develop the web-based catalogue of research groups and projects.

## 4/ [Frontiers of Africa Climate Research White Paper](#)

- Continue the development of the Frontiers White Paper, including the integration of the ACC outcomes and recommendations.
- Enable the review of the paper by Impacts-Adaptation-Vulnerability (IAV) and Policy representatives (including Disaster Risk Reduction, Water, Agriculture, Health, Food Security, Policy, Education, Academic applications programs).
- Submit for publication in the peer reviewed literature in 2015.

## 5/ Africa CR4D Science and Implementation Plan

- Support the development of the community research proposals, including a review process under the guidance of the WCRP CR4D Scientific Steering Group.
- Develop the science and implementation plan of the Agenda, building on the Frontiers Document, the ACC statement and the research concept notes proposed by the community, and strategically complimenting relevant ongoing activities.



- Provide support to research initiatives and the implementation of activities under the CR4D Agenda, including the organization of virtual coordination activities, and support for scientific meetings on different aspects of the Agenda, e.g. workshops, and - in the long term - work towards the 2nd Africa Climate Conference (tentatively in 2018).
- Support the interface of the science community with the Coordination Platform and Partners Forum (CCDA).