



Third Annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa – (CCDA-III) 21 – 23 October 2013

Sub-Theme I: Climate Science, Data and Services for Africa's Adaptation and Mitigation – 21 October 2013, 14:00 – 15:30

Contribution of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to Climate Risk Management in Africa

F. Lúcio, K. Konaré & J. Wilson

World Meteorological Organisation

Established in 2009 at the World Climate Conference-3, the *Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)* seeks to enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially those societies most vulnerable to climate-related hazards. The GFCS addresses the entire value chain for definition, development and application of climate information and services from global to national levels. In particular, GFCS will strengthen national, regional and global capabilities; generate climate information and products for enhanced decision-making; and facilitate coordination and collaboration among various institutions, including intermediary institutions at the nexus between users and providers, for the generation and use of tailored climate services.

In response to major challenges related to the delivery of weather and climate services in Africa, an Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) was developed by the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET¹). The strategy was subsequently endorsed by the African Union, positioning weather and climate services as essential components in national and regional development frameworks in Africa. One of the principal pillars of the strategy is to support the provision of weather and climate services for climate change adaptation. It further highlights the need for the implementation of a structured GFCS in Africa, among others.

The role of the UN and its programmes and initiatives in assisting African policy makers in mainstreaming climate issues is critical in fostering collaboration within all relevant sectors. The convergence between users of climate information and services and providers of this knowledge will strengthen the development, provision and use of science-based climate services facilitating informed decisions for improved climate risk management in support of poverty alleviation, disaster risk management and sustainable development.

¹ AMCOMET, a joint WMO-AU initiative, was established as the high-level mechanism responsible for fostering the political will to promote the provision of weather and climate products and services in support of socio-economic development in Africa.