



AMCOMET

**MEETING OF EXPERTS & STAKEHOLDERS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN FOR THE INTEGRATED AFRICAN STRATEGY ON
METEOROLOGY (WEATHER AND CLIMATE SERVICES)**

**10 – 12 February 2014
AUC Small Conference Room 2
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

MEETING REPORT

I. Introduction

1. Following the decision taken at the Second Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET-2), in the city of Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from 15-19 October 2012, regarding the need to develop an Implementation and Resource Mobilisation Plan for the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services), a consultant was engaged to draft the Implementation Plan. A Meeting of Experts and Stakeholders of the Implementation Plan took place at the African Union Commission (AUC) Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the 10-12 February 2014, to review the draft Implementation Plan and Resource Mobilization Strategy. The meeting was co-hosted by the World Meteorological Organisation and the African Union Commission, and the National Meteorological Agency of Ethiopia provided the local support.

II. Opening

1. **Dr. Khalil Timamy**, Head of Division, AUC Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, was the Master of Ceremony. Opening Statements were made successively by **Dr. Gabriel Abebe**, Director of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission; **Dr. Joseph R. Mukabana**, Director, Regional Office for Africa and Least Developing Countries, World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and responsible for AMCOMET Secretariat; and **Dr. Elliot Bungare**, AMCOMET Bureau Chair, Government of Zimbabwe who officially opened and chaired the meeting.
2. The meeting was attended by Three Task Force Members; Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire and Sudan all represented by the respective Permanent Representative with WMO; Representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), regional institutions, African Union Commission (AUC); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); World Bank and EUMETSAT. The representatives of the National Meteorological Agency (NMA) of Ethiopia were in attendance. The List of Participants is attached as **Annex 1**.

III. Organizational Matters

3. The meeting adopted the Programme as attached as **Annex 2**.

IV. Presentations

4. **Dr Joseph R. Mukabana**, representing WMO and AMCOMET Secretariat, presented the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) for implementation in Africa. The presentation provided a detailed insight into the structure and pillars of GFCS and in particular its linkages with the AMCOMET Integrated Strategy in Meteorology (Weather and Climate). It was noted that AMCOMET would provide an excellent platform in the implementation of GFCS in Africa. The presentation is attached as **Annex 3**.
5. **Dr. Michel Legrand Saah**, the expert engaged to perform the feasibility study for the establishment of Regional Climate Centre (RCC) in Central Africa presented his preliminary findings. The highlights of his presentation included the following:
 - The rationale behind the necessity to establish a Regional Climate Centre in Central Africa; and
 - The draft elements of the feasibility study, including the governance, functions and potential structures of the RCC and necessary requirements to establish such a centre in Central Africa.

The presentation is attached as **Annex 4**.

6. **Dr. Mohammed Kadi**, the consultant engaged to draft the Implementation Plan for the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) presented the elements of the draft strategy. The highlights of the presentation included:
 - The Expected Results (ERs) from the Implementation Plan;
 - Proposed AMCOMET Programmes that can be expanded through the Implementation Plan; and
 - Objectives for Resource Mobilization, challenges and a mapping of institutions and potential partners.
7. **Mr. Al-Hamndou Dorsouma**, Senior Programme Manager, WMO Office for Resource Mobilization and Development Partnerships, complemented the presentation with precisions on the Resource Mobilization Plan, underlining the current low level of funding for AMCOMET, the need for an aggressive, dynamic and sustained resource mobilization approach through appropriate partnerships, and the need for well defined flagship programmes under the Implementation Plan.

The presentation is attached as **Annex 5**.

V. Partner Institutions Presentations

8. **Mr. Vladimir Tsurkinov**, Team Leader of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) Hydromet Programme of the World Bank Group presented the Bank's current and future plans for modernizing hydromet in Africa. He further provided an overview of the Bank's approach at the national and regional levels to ensure project ownership. The presentation is attached as **Annex 6**.
9. **Mr. Vincent Gabaglio**, International Relations Officer from EUMETSAT highlighted one of EUMETSAT's strategic objectives, which is to extend the user base for EUMETSAT data, products and service in EUMETSAT and WMO Member States. He also provided an overview of their activities within the context of EU-Africa projects. He further reiterated EUMETSAT contribution of free data for developing countries and the continuation of EUMETCast over Africa. His presentation is attached as **Annex 7**.
10. **Dr. Cheikh Kane** presented the outcomes of the Africa Climate Conference (ACC) which took place in Arusha in October 2013. The ACC proposed a coordinated research agenda to advance the current frontiers of climate knowledge to inform adaptation decision-making and climate risk management in Africa. The proposal is in line with the implementation of GFCS in Africa. The presentation is attached as **Annex 8**.

VI. Experts and Stakeholders Roundtable Discussion:

11. The meeting noted that AMCOMET would play an important role in sensitizing policy makers at national level for enhanced financial support to strengthen the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). This should be well articulated in the Implementation Plan.
12. Delivery and use of climate services at beneficial levels is important and need to be factored in the Implementation Plan.
13. There is need to define flagship programmes for AMCOMET that would be used in development of partnerships and resource mobilization.

14. The Implementation Plan to take into account the establishment of a Regional Space Programme as noted during the Second Session of AMCOMET and endorsed by the African Union Summit in January 2013.
15. The meeting also noted that the expected results from the Implementation Plan should have timelines for implementing activities, as well as measurable results.
16. The Meeting established three break-out Working Groups (WGs) to review the Implementation Plan and to provide feedback. The three Task Force Members present were elected Group Chairs. The AMCOMET, AUC and Consultants were to move across the working groups providing guidelines and clarifications as was required by the groups. The three Members of the AMCOMET Task Force present were nominated to Chair the Working Groups. The Groups were divided as shown on **Annex 9**.

VII. Key Input from the Break-out Groups

17. **Breakout Group 1** presented their feedback, attached as **Annex 10**. Below are the proposed Expected Results for Strategic Pillar 1 (SP1) and Strategic Pillar 5 (SP5).
 - a. **SP1:** Increase Political Support and Recognition of NMHSs and related WMO Regional Climate Centres (RCCs)
 - i. **ER1:** Legislation and policies formulated and Implemented for coherent integration of weather and climate services in National, Regional and Continental (NRC) development programmes and agenda
 - ii. **ER2:** Visibility and relevance of the NMHSs & RCCs enhanced thereby contributing to sustainable development at the National, Regional and Continental levels
 - iii. **ER3:** African weather and climate institutions made sustainable
 - iv. **ERX:** Efficient and effective leadership and management by Heads of NMHSs and RCCs
 - b. **SP5:** Strengthen Partnerships with Relevant Institutions and Funding Mechanisms
 - i. **ER14:** Established partnerships to strengthen capacities of NMHSs, RCCs and other WMO weather and climate institutions to effectively and efficiently produce and deliver services that support sustainable development
 - ii. **ER16:** Established funding mechanisms, including donor support programs on regional and continental scale aimed at strengthening NMHSs and improve delivery of hydromet services
18. **Breakout Group 2** presented their feedback, attached as **Annex 11**. Below are the proposed Expected Results for Strategic Pillar 2 (SP2) and Strategic Pillar 3 (SP3):
 - a. **SP2:** Enhance the production and delivery of weather and climate services for sustainable Development
 - i. **ER5:** Enhanced NMHS capabilities to observe, monitor, exchange data, produce and disseminate high quality information and services for sustainable development
 - ii. **ER6:** Strengthened NMHSs and RCCs capability for efficient and effective dissemination and service delivery of customer tailored products to stakeholders, communities, and households

- iii. **ER7:** Developed and/or Strengthened NMHSs and RCCs infrastructure/capability to use new and emerging scientific technology and innovation to enhance operational research and development to improve data management and forecasts.
 - b. **SP3:** Improve Access to Meteorological Services in particular for the Marine and Aviation Sectors
 - i. **ER8:** Enhanced NMHSs to produce and deliver services compliant to International Standards (ISO 9001) in line with Annex 3 of ICAO Convention (1944) and other associated WMO / ICAO guidelines and recommended practices for air navigation
 - ii. **ER9:** Enhanced capabilities of NMHSs to provide oceanographic and marine meteorological services for maritime transport, pollution management, including oil spills, coastal zone ecosystem management and sustainable exploitation of marine resources
19. **Breakout Group 3** presented their feedback, attached as **Annex 12**. Below are the proposed Expected Results for SP4.
- a. **SP4:** Support the Provision of Weather and Climate Services for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
 - i. **ER10:** Enhanced NMHS capacities and capabilities on climate change monitoring, detection and attribution to promote understanding of climate science
 - ii. **ER11:** Established research, modelling, prediction and scenario building to facilitate climate change adaptation and resilience building for society, economy, and the environment
 - iii. **ER12:** Strengthened NMHSs capacity to reinforce coherence for climate change discussions, negotiations and implementation to effectively contribute to Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs); including conventions, protocols, and other relevant agreements
 - iv. **ER13:** Mainstreaming of climate services into national economic planning and programmes through the implementation of GFCS at the national and regional level

VIII. Next Steps

- 20. The experts requested the Consultant developing the Implementation Plan, Dr. Kadi, to make sure Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are time-bound and measurable.
- 21. The experts further requested the AMCOMET Bureau to reconsider the timeline for the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services), taking into consideration activities outlined in the Implementation and Resource Mobilisation Plan. It appeared that a Four Year Plan as proposed was too short for effectively implementing the activities.
- 22. The experts also requested the Consultant, in collaboration with the Task Force Members to streamline and realign the Expected Results and Activities of the Implementation and Resource Mobilisation Plan.

23. The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) requested the AMCOMET Bureau and the African Union Commission (AUC) to follow-up and recommend that IOC Member States also have a Regional Climate Centre (RCC), as called out in the Addis Ababa Declaration. The IOC further requested that a decision to this effect be made for endorsement during the Third Session of AMCOMET.
24. Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) indicated that not enough consultations have taken place for the feasibility study on the Regional Climate Centre for Central Africa and requested the AMCOMET Secretariat to facilitate, to the extent possible, a tour of Central African Member States to ensure approval of the proposal at the Heads of States level. The AUC representative informed the meeting that it was necessary for the Draft Implementation Plan be presented to the Experts from all AU Member States before submitting it to the AU Policy Organs.
25. The meeting further agreed to seek a common AUC-AMCOMET Secretariat request for a Donor Round Table Meeting to present activities within the Implementation Plan with a view to eventually having an AMCOMET Financing Facility.

The next step is for the refined Draft Implementation Plan to be presented to the AMCOMET Bureau, validated and presented to the AMCOMET-3 for consideration for adoption.

IX. Closing Ceremony

26. **Dr. Joseph R. Mukabana**, Director, Regional Office for Africa and Least Developing Countries, World Meteorological Organisation and responsible for AMCOMET Secretariat, **Dr. Khalil Timamy**, Head of Division, AUC Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, and **Dr. Elliot Bungare**, AMCOMET Bureau Chair, Republic of Zimbabwe thanked the Task Force Members, RECs, RCCs and Development Partners for their support and for actively participating in discussions and deliberations to ensure very good contribution to the Implementation and Resource Mobilisation Plan of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services). The African Union Commission (AUC) was commended for their unwavering support to the AMCOMET Process. The Chair of the AMCOMET Bureau, Mr. Elliot Bungare officially closed the meeting.