

Climate Research for Development (CR4D) Oversight Board Meeting

Date: 11 August 2017

Place: via Video-conference

Participants

1. Joseph Mukabana, WMO/AMCOMET
2. Josephine Wilson, WMO/AMCOMET
3. Ernest Afiesimama, WMO/AMCOMET
4. James Murombedzi, ACPC
5. Linus Mofer, ACPC
6. Charles Muraya, ACPC
7. Yosef Amha, ACPC

Agenda:

- Review and endorse the ICP lists
- Discuss the roadmap/timeline of engaging the ICP members
- CR4D 5 Year Programme Strategy: Discuss and respond to the Strategic Plan Development Sub-committee recommendations
- Any other business (AOB)

1. Review and endorse the ICP lists

- The preliminary ICP member lists were proposed by the Secretariat and discussed during the second Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting. The lists composed of 42 institutions and categorized into permanent, voting and observer members. The second SAC meeting recommended this list to Oversight Board (OB);
- The TOR stipulates max of 50 members, for 2yr term, renewable for 2yrs;
- The permanent members are the founding members of CR4D and regional climate centers, the voting members are mainly academia and research institutes in Africa, the observing are RECs, NGOs and development partners.

Action point

- *The preliminary list of ICP members endorsed by the OB;*

2. Roadmap to engage ICP members

- *Secretariat and OB to draft and send invitation letters to heads of institutions formally inviting them to be members of the ICP and asking them to nominate focal points who will represent the institutions at the ICP*
- Relevant documents about CR4D and ICP including the approved invitation letter will be sent to the institutions by the Secretariat;
- Launch of ICP as a pre-event of CCDA-VII (10 Oct. 2017);

Action point

- ACPC should advise who is invited for CCDA (by the end of next week; 18 August 2017) and WMO will then look into options to fund other ICP participants. Focus for funding should be given to permanent and voting members

3. CR4D 5 Year Programme Strategy: Oversight Board responses to the Strategic Plan Development Sub-committee recommendations

The Strategic Plan Development Sub-Committee met in Geneva from July 3 - 4, 2017, and made several recommendations for the strategic focus of the CR4D research strategy, as well as a roadmap for the implementation of the strategy. The general recommendations in particular, have implications for the governance of the CR4D, and require that the Oversight Board meets and reviews these as a matter of urgency. The ACPC, as secretariat of the CR4D, met on August 4, after receiving the final draft report of the sub-committee, endorsed by the whole Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of CR4D. The following are the observations of the secretariat on the recommendations:

1. The Sub – committee recommends that the CR4D Oversight Board (OB) meets by September 2017.

OB Observation: This is in order and indeed urgently required. The virtual meeting was held on 11 August 2017 and agreed to hold in-person meeting on 9th of September 2017 in Addis Ababa at Radisson Blu Hotel. It is also agreed that regular meetings will be held in the future.

2. The Oversight Board finalize its membership to include
 - a. representatives from the AUC and AfDB

OB Observation: The AfDB and AUC are already represented in the board as members of ClimDev, of which ACPC is the secretariat. However, if the objective is to expand the participation of other units in the bank and AUC beyond the ClimDev, the secretariat would recommend the membership to include the Climate Change Directorate (AfDB) and the Directorate of Rural Economy and Agriculture (AUC), with the Oversight Board reporting to the Commissioner of the DREA.

Hence, the members of OB will be ACPC (ClimDev-Africa Secretariat), the ICP chair, Director of AMCOMET Secretariat, the AMCOMET bureau chair, AUC-DREA Director and AfDB-Climate Change Director.

- b. Observing members of the OB: WMO (WCRP, GFCS) and SAC Co-Chairs

OB Observation: What is the rationale for observer membership in the OB? If the rationale is for the SAC to have a channel for advising the OB, then this should be clarified, and the nature of the participation of the SAC Co-Chairs should also be detailed. The ToR for observers (if agreed observers are needed) will be developed by CR4D Secretariat for discussion with the OB.

3. The updated ToR for the Oversight Board, SAC and CR4D Secretariat be reviewed

OB Observations: CR4D has never become fully functional. To start reviewing the TOR of these bodies before the programme is fully operationalized is “putting the cart before the horse”. What is required is for the OB as well as the partners to fully resource CR4D and then review the operational modalities beyond what is already provided in the various documents establishing the programme.

However, the SAC ToR’s was reviewed during the SAC meeting and changes were made to expand the SAC members from 15 to 19 to include female social scientists.

This membership expansion was accepted by the OB during the second SAC meeting but requires formal endorsement.

4. Mandate the SAC to establish a thematic working group structure
OB Observation: The role of the SAC is Advisory. This recommendation implies that the SAC would in fact be responsible for leading as well as carrying out the research on climate change and development in Africa. Our understanding of the spirit and intent of the establishment of the SAC is that such a mandate would be beyond the intended role of the SAC, and would in fact constitute a conflict of interest. Individual SAC members can certainly carry out research under the auspices of the CR4D, even constitute research groups as deemed under the strategic plan, but to actually lead the research is beyond advisory. Further, the OB recognizes that the priority is to mobilize resources for the CR4D. Thus far, all the activities of the CR4D have been carried out through limited resources raised by the secretariat and by ClimDev. This has resulted in a very limited research programme. The finalization of the research strategy should act as a driver towards full capitalization of the programme, and the priority role of SAC should be to advise on resource mobilization to support the identified research priorities for different regions. Hence, the SAC roles are identifying on “thematic area” and working groups and advising the OB.
5. Ensure recognition of CR4D as one of the structures of AUC
OB Observation: CR4D is a research initiative rather than an institution. As an initiative, it is already fully recognized by the AUC. In any case AMCOMET, a member of the OB, is a structure of the AUC. Using AMCOMET and DREA, CR4D outcomes could be elevated to the right levels of the AUC policy making process.
6. CR4D Secretariat to finalize shortlist of African Institutions to be members of ICP:
OB Observation – Agreed, it is now reviewed and endorsed by the OB
7. Secretariat to organize first meeting of ICP during CCD A 2017:
OB Observation: - Agreed. To be done, resources permitting
8. Ensure effective communication and coordination between SAC/OB and ICP
OB Observation: The operationalization of the OB should go a long way towards this, bearing in mind that resource limitations have always been the major hindrance. However, ACPC will come-up with the schematic showing communication flow between different bodies of CR4D (responsibility given to Charles Muraya)
9. Recruitment of a full time CR4D Coordinator, and 2 CR4D Research Coordinators
OB Observation: The CR4D Coordinator has always been a member of the secretariat’s professional staff, with other responsibilities beyond CR4D. In Phase 1 of ClimDev, secretariat allocated some resources to engage a full time CR4D Coordinator on a long term consultancy basis. However, at the end of ClimDev Phase 1, secretariat reverted to the default position of coordinating CR4D through regular staff time. If resources do become available, then recruitment of a full time Coordinator would of course be feasible. Ad interim, however, secretariat is proceeding with the recruitment of a climate scientist who will also coordinate the

CR4D initiative. On the recruitment of 2 additional regional research coordinators, the Secretariat would like to have clarification on why the committee deems it necessary to have 2 research coordinators, rotating between research institutions in Africa over 5-yr terms, to integrate internal and external research to CR4D. Is this not a role of the SAC?

Furthermore, SAC's role is identification of research areas and direction as well as advice to the OB. Hence, the following are recommended: (i) SAC to identify thematic research areas and recommend centres of excellence for each of the thematic areas. Also, until the fund is available, SAC members can act as co-coordinator of CR4D research in their respective regions; (ii) the current acting CR4D coordinator should establish link with the identified center of excellence in the regions; and (iii) OB agreed to review the sub-committee's recommendation when resources are available.

10. SAC Should define a Grant Management Framework (GMF) for the CR4D call for proposals
OB Observation: Again this is clearly ultra vires the advisory role of SAC. In any case a GMF already exists and has been operationalized to some extent in the DfID WISER-funded CR4D project. What is required, in the context of existing resources, is to map the DfID/WISER grant management mechanism to this wider GMF. Overall, the CR4D GMF should be generic to accommodate all development partners.