

# Global RCOF Review 2017:

## Recommendations on operational practices



**WMO OMM**

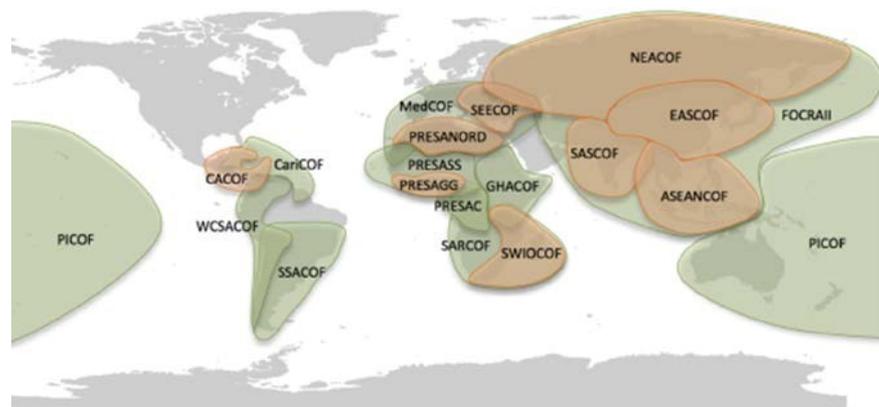
World Meteorological Organization

Organisation météorologique mondiale

Courtesy of: R. Kolli and A. Hovsepian

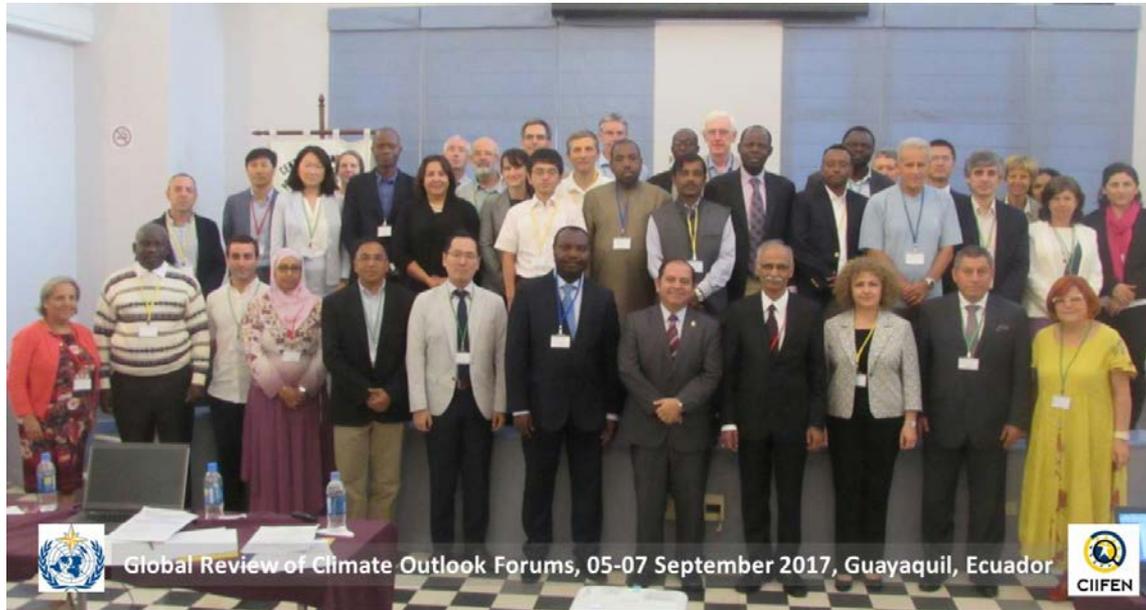
# Background

- WMO has helped to establish RCOFs across the world with an overarching responsibility to produce and disseminate a consensus-based regional assessment of the state of the regional climate for the upcoming season.
- As of 2017, the RCOF process has completed 20 successful years with 19 RCOFs operational around the world, widely recognized to be key elements of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).



<b>ASEANCOF</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations Climate Outlook Forum	<b>PRESAC</b>	Prévisions Climatologiques Saisonnières en Afrique Centrale
<b>CACOF</b>	Central American Climate Outlook Forum	<b>PRESAGG</b>	Prévisions Climatologiques Saisonnières pour les pays du Golfe de Guinée
<b>CariCOF</b>	Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum	<b>PRESANORD</b>	Prévisions Climatologiques Saisonnières en Afrique du Nord
<b>EASCOF</b>	East Asia winter Climate Outlook Forum	<b>PRESASS</b>	Prévisions Climatologiques Saisonnières en Afrique Soudano-Sahélienne
<b>FOCRAII</b>	Forum on Regional Climate Monitoring, Assessment and Prediction for Regional Association II (Asia)	<b>SARCOT</b>	Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum
<b>GHACOF</b>	Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum	<b>SASCOF</b>	South Asian Climate Outlook Forum
<b>MedCOF</b>	Mediterranean Climate Outlook Forum	<b>SEECOF</b>	South-East European Climate Outlook Forum
<b>NEACOF</b>	North Eurasian Climate Outlook Forum	<b>SSACOF</b>	Southeast of South America Climate Outlook Forum
<b>PICOF</b>	Pacific Islands Climate Outlook Forum	<b>SWIOCOF</b>	South West Indian Ocean Climate Outlook Forum
<b>ICU</b>	Island Climate Update	<b>WCSACOF</b>	Western Coast of South America Climate Outlook Forum
<b>OCOF</b>	Online Climate Outlook Forum		
<b>Pacific ENSO Update</b>	Pacific El Niño Southern Oscillation Update		

# Global RCOF Review 2017



- To commemorate the important milestone in RCOF evolution completing two decades of successful implementation WMO has taken up a comprehensive review of the RCOF process – **Global RCOF Review 2017**.
- For this purpose, WMO organized an **International Workshop on Global Review of RCOFs** from 5 to 7 September, 2017 in Guayaquil, Ecuador, hosted by the International Research Center on El Niño (CIIFEN).
- The 2017 RCOF Review was the third in the series of periodic review events, the earlier two having been conducted in 2000 in Pretoria (South Africa), and in 2008 in Arusha (Tanzania)



# RCOF Review 2017: SWOT Analysis (1/2)

## Strengths

- Capacity development and relationship building among NMHSs.
- Interaction/collaboration.
- Coordinated RCC/NMHS linkages.
- Access to GPC-LRF data, products and tools.
- Sustained building of a community of learning.
- Communication and awareness building.
- Harmonizing products across region.
- Consolidating information from multiple sources through expert consensus approaches.

## Weaknesses

- High staff turn over and sub-optimal retention of capacities.
- Low level of awareness of probabilistic outlooks.
- Lack of good quality data, sharing constraints.
- High subjectivity in consensus practices.
- Low user engagement and national follow-up.
- Lack of standardized approaches to downscaling, calibration and Verification.
- Lack of ability to demonstrate value of forecasts.

# RCOF Review 2017: SWOT Analysis (2/2)

## Opportunities

- Sector-specific tailored products/co-production approaches.
- Foster linkages with research and adaptation communities.
- Regional approaches to GFCS implementation/funding access.
- Improvements in forecast skills/usefulness.
- Sub-seasonal/annual forecasts on the horizon.
- Regional product standardization
- More frequent RCOFs through electronic communication.
- User engagement through NCOFs

## Threats

- Sustainable funding
- Low/varied technical capacities of NMHSs (infrastructural/human resources).
- Visibility (public as well as policy makers).
- Inadequate observational networks/databases.
- Perceived low importance of seasonal forecasts.



# Workshop Conclusions

- Participants unanimously recognized the **progress achieved**, particularly on the contributions of RCOFs in promoting wider use and better interpretation of seasonal forecasts at the national levels.
- Agreed on the way forward towards the new generation of RCOFs, including:
  - Mainstreaming of **objective** seasonal climate forecasting underpinning RCOF products.
  - New approaches including **expanded product portfolio**, based on standardized operational practices.
  - Follow-up integration of seasonal outlooks in **decision-making process** at country level.
  - Improved **Partnership** and **User Engagement** in RCOF process.
  - Organization of “**centralized**” training workshops to better target capacity development efforts required for RCOF operations.



# Workshop Recommendations (1/2)

- Promote greater access and utilization of [WMO LC -RFMME data to enable RCCs to produce objective forecast](#) for RCOF operations/RCCs to optimize skills for the region of interest.
- [RCCs to continue guiding/coordinating](#) the RCOF process, including the [responsibilities of RCCs](#) to play a role in resource mobilization for RCOFs
- Build [feedback mechanisms](#) at RCOF sessions to propose improving RCC activities to better address RCOFs needs
- [Expand RCOF product portfolio](#) to include:
  - **Climate Monitoring**
  - **Verification**
  - **Remote climate anomalies**
  - **Sub seasonal products**
  - **Introduce Climate Change component, in terms of observed trends, attribution of extreme events in climate change context, etc.**
  - **Replace the pre-COF training sessions with "centralized" training workshops that address specific competencies across regions**
- Promote [stronger linkages](#) of RCCs, RCOFs with [research community](#)



# Workshop Recommendations (2/2)

- Establish/Implement regular NCOFs (and other similar mechanisms) at national levels, and where required at sub-national levels with the primary aim of sharing seasonal products and their updates on a regular basis to support sector-driven climate risk management.
- National Frameworks for Climate Services (NFCS) linked to high-level cross-cutting objectives, will provide mechanisms for sustainability to the national climate forums.
- Ensure joint provider-user ownership of RCOF process, demonstrating the value of forecast and advocating with the governments the usability/value of the RCOF/NCOF products.

*Synthesis Report of the review and a Roadmap with Action plan for the next Generation RCOFs will be produced based on the workshop proceedings, recommendations and outcomes.*

[http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/meetings/workshop\\_rcofs.php](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/meetings/workshop_rcofs.php)



# Gracias



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