

Summary of SWOT analysis from RCCs

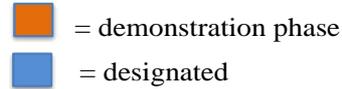
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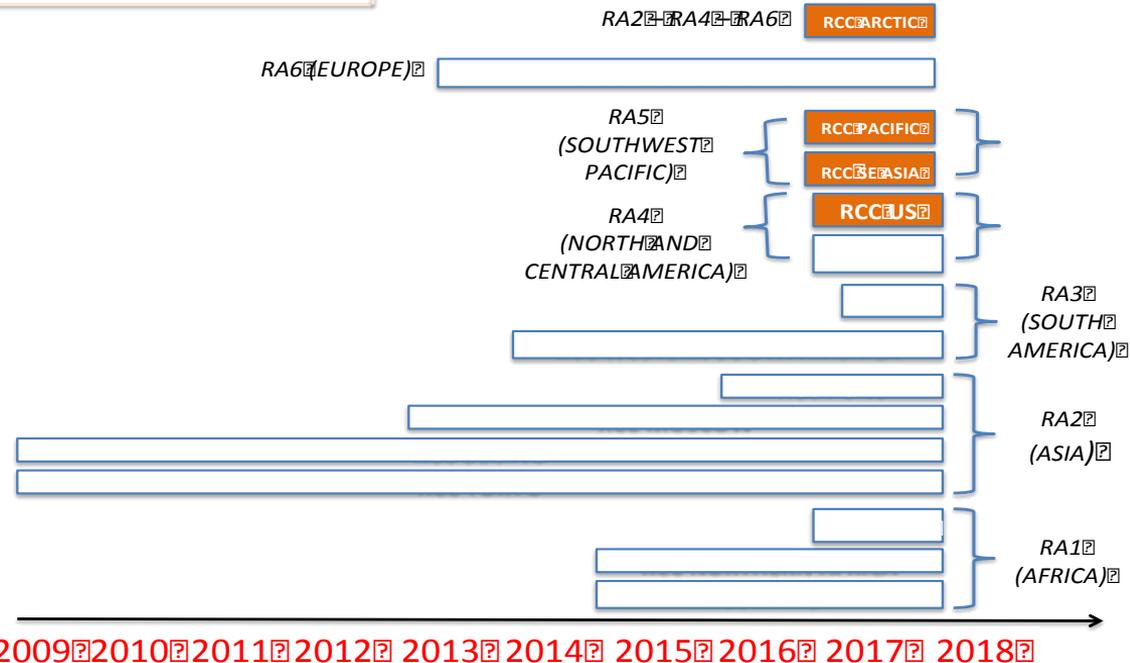
The background

There are regional differences among existing RCCs:

- ❖ history of operation;
- ❖ spatial domain of operations;
- ❖ form of RCC implementation;
- ❖ technological updates;
- ❖ coordination of RCOF;
- ❖ infrastructural, institutional, procedural, human capacities.



History of RCC/RCC Network



The RCCs operation

All RCCs/RCCs-N successfully fulfil all requirements for mandatory functions. Almost all RCCs actively introduce new products like: climate watch advisories etc., monitoring and/or forecasting onsets/cessation of the precipitation season, wet/dry spells, drought in its meteorological, agricultural and hydrological aspects, monitoring and/or forecasting large scale circulation pattern (El Niño, NAO, AO, PDO, POL, EU, MJO, QBQ, SSW, snow cover, sea ice characteristics),

Training/capacity development services

Type of training services	RCCs
Training Courses	all
Contribution to training session for an RCOF(s)	all
Expert visits	all
e-learning	few

Research and development

RCCs promote RD activities in cooperation with research institutes and universities to enhance the understandings and predictabilities of climate variability as a mean of improving regional climate prediction skill. Climate impact studies are also underway.

Role in activities of regional climate outlook forum(s)

RA I (Africa)	RCC Africa (ACMAD)	<i>Coordination of PRESASS, PRESAGG, PRESAC Contribution to PRESANORD/MEDCOF, SWIOCOF, GHACOF and SARCOF</i>
	RCC IGAD (ICPAC)	<i>Coordination of GHACOF</i>
	RCC-Network Northern Africa	<i>Contribution to PRESANORD, ARABCOF</i>
RA II (Asia)	RCC Beijing	<i>Coordination of FOCRA Contribution to EASCOF, SASCOF, ASEANCOF, NEACOF</i>
	RCC Tokyo	<i>Rotating coordination of EASCOF among JMA, KMA and NAMEM. Contribution to FOCRA II, SASCOF, ASEANCOF, NEACOF</i>
	RCC Moscow	<i>Coordination of NEACOF. Contribution to SEECOF, FOCRA, MEDCOF and PARCOF</i>
	RCC Pune	<i>Coordination of SASCOF</i>
RA III (South America)	RCC Western South America hosted by CIIFEN	<i>Coordination of WCSA-RCOF</i>
	RCC-Network Southeastern South America	<i>Rotating coordination of SSACOF</i>
RA IV (Northern America, Central America and the Caribbean)	United States RCC (USRCC), in demonstration phase	<i>Contribution to CARICOF, PARCOF</i>
	RCC Caribbean hosted by CIMH	<i>Coordination of CARICOF</i>
RA V (South-west Pacific)	South East Asia RCC-Network, in demonstration phase	<i>Rotating coordination of ASEANCOF</i>
	Pacific RCC-Network, in demonstration phase	<i>Rotating coordination of PICOF</i>
RA VI (Europe)	RA VI RCC-Network	<i>Rotating coordination of SEECOF and MEDCOF by RAVI RCC-N members, LRF node of RAVI RCC-N coordinates NEACOF</i>
RAII-RAIV-RAVI	Arctic RCC-Network, in demonstration phase	<i>Coordination of PARCOF, contribution to NEACOF</i>

Role in activities of regional climate outlook forum(s)

- ❖ Mobilization of resources to support organization of RCOFs
- ❖ Formulation of concept notes, program of RCOFs
- ❖ Coordination of the preparation of the RCOFs consensus statement
- ❖ Contribution to discussions towards the consensus statements
- ❖ Dissemination and communication of the outcomes of RCOFs to interested users
- ❖ Demonstration of the RCOF value added for the different sectors to provide details for complete products design and implementation of pilot.

Feedback mechanism

- ❖ Surveys embedded on the RCCs website
- ❖ *Webmaster contact on the RCCs website*
- ❖ Web forum available on RCCs website
- ❖ Periodic user surveys during face to face meetings, expert visits, training seminars, RCOF sessions
- ❖ **RCOF mechanism for feedback collection is considered the most efficient**

The main messages from the feedbacks are:

- ❖ Access to preprocessed gridded data
- ❖ Country specific products for NHMSs
- ❖ Training, manuals, advice on seasonal forecast, and data management
- ❖ Access to high resolution model outputs
- ❖ Development of tailored seasonal forecast at least one-two months before the start of the season.
- ❖ Availability of tools for generating consensus forecasts objectively.

Challenges, gaps and needs

- ❖ Challenges to get funds and dedicated staff for product development and delivery to meet user needs
- ❖ Gaps in adequate station observational data that limit verification and improvement of operational forecasts
- ❖ Gaps in stable partnerships with universities and climate research institutions
- ❖ Need for stable regional group of country focal points
- ❖ Difficulties to generate and update consensus forecasts more frequently
- ❖ Visibility of RCCs in organizational structure of their host institution to increase the support with operating budgets
- ❖ Need in more regular and structured interactions between service providers (NHMSs/RCCs/GPCs) and end-users to develop products
- ❖ Difficulties promptly react in actions for users' requests
- ❖ Need for a science writer to review, edit and communicate the outlooks, bulletins and consensus statements
- ❖ Limited access to peer reviewed journals on regional research findings as some RCCs have not subscribed to many journal for free access.

SWOT analysis (S) Strengths

- ❖ Collaboration among NHMSs and climate research centres/ institutions has created incentives for development and advancing the climate services
- ❖ Existence of a good knowledge and expertise on climate area
- ❖ Significant improvement in the understanding and predictability of the climate variability for the tropical and subtropical regions.
- ❖ Experience in acquiring and managing projects with national and international financing
- ❖ Experience in conducting capacity development activities in line with RCC mandatory functions
- ❖ Consolidated institutional network for regional seasonal forecast
- ❖ Essential infrastructure & technical capability that are required to provide RCC services.
- ❖ Regular upgrades of methods and tools to operate the RCCs including preparation and presentation of consensus forecasts and their dissemination.

SWOT analysis (W) Weakness

- ❖ Shortage of financial resources putting constraints on skilled human resources and available infrastructure (power, computing, storage system and internet) to deliver and develop new products from an end-user perspective
- ❖ Lack of long period, high resolution, and quality controlled data basis for the region
- ❖ Lack of general awareness about the exiting RCCs services, and limited visibility in some NMHSs in the national and institutional context
- ❖ Little coordination/regular contact among different RCCs and RCC-Networks (e.g.virtual meetings with members over several different time zones delays communication).
- ❖ Low model skill for seasonal prediction in the high latitude regions.
- ❖ Lack of clear guidelines for tailoring of RCC products.
- ❖ The appropriate skills/competencies to communicate the consensus statement from an end-user perspective
- ❖ Language barrier problem

SWOT analysis (O) Opportunities

- ❖ Strong partnerships through WMO within CSIS infrastructure;
- ❖ Sustained WMO guidance and support
- ❖ Existing competencies for climate services, guidance and good practices for climate services provision, methods and tools;
- ❖ Demonstrated interest of partners (NHMSs, GPCs, RCCs) and donors (e.g WB, USAID, UNDP, etc.) is an opportunity to develop sustainable RCC services
- ❖ Growing of climate products through the Copernicus platform.
- ❖ Research achievements and new research projects in area of climate variability and prediction
- ❖ Existing web resources especially in online learning.
- ❖ Cooperation with international and national organizations (operational, research, education, etc.)
- ❖ The implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services.
- ❖ Sendai's global framework, Paris Agreements

SWOT analysis (T) Threats

- ❖ Sustainable funding of RCCs
- ❖ Competition from other climate service providers, and entry of private companies in the climate services
- ❖ Provision of reliable forecast despite of advanced technology and resources due to complexity of climate systems and low predictability
- ❖ Lack of interest across different stakeholders may lead to the fizzling out of the RCC initiative.
- ❖ Rules and legislation might hinder development of climate service and data direct sharing
- ❖ Use of RCCs products by the private sector without win-win partnerships established with NMHSs
- ❖ Limitations in the processes of integration of climate information on a regional scale.
- ❖ The international financial crisis and prioritization of international cooperation to other areas.

Way forward

- ❖ Keep on making efforts to provide better climate monitoring and forecast information to the users
- ❖ Make the process of preparing and verification of the RCOF consensus forecast in objective manner
- ❖ Develop mechanism to issue impact based forecast outlook
- ❖ Improve co-ordination with NMHS from the region and neighboring RCCs
- ❖ Enhance cooperation among the users, research and operational communities to improve quality and dissemination of the RCC products
- ❖ Provide new document information on methodologies and product specifications for RCC products, and guidance on their use
- ❖ Enhance interactions with regional users
- ❖ Keep on making efforts in sub seasonal predictability research, seamless approaches, seasonal applications for sectorial activities, climate services on economic model
- ❖ Promote studies on economic impacts of climate extremes on various sectors.
- ❖ Increase capacity training activity programs.

Specific issues need to be raised during the RCC Review Workshop

- ❖ Flexibility in formulation for Mandatory Functions versus Highly Recommended Functions. Differences between RCCs in user demands should allow different Mandatory Functions
- ❖ Formulation of clear regional data sharing framework to facilitate data exchange
- ❖ Coordination/regular contact among different RCCs and RCC-Networks
- ❖ An online collaboration platform should be explored
- ❖ Rotation of key contact persons in NHMSs, the way to minimize the impact of the rotation
- ❖ Enhancement of interaction between the scientific, academic, operational and user communities
- ❖ Given the involvement of the private sector seeing climate services as a business, recommendations or resolutions may be necessary to increase RCCs reliance on operating budgets of host institutions.

Thank you Merci

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