

# RCOF Review 2017

## [Regional Climate Outlook Forum]

### Status Report (Survey)

#### Annotated Outline

#### Specific Climate features of concerned region

*The salient features of the seasonal climate of the region (rainy season, dry season), indicating the sources of seasonal predictability (ENSO for example); does a baseline study exist on climate variability in the region and its major forces? Include references to important recent peer-reviewed publications on the subject, along with a brief summary outlining the key messages on the current status of scientific knowledge relevant to seasonal forecasting for the region of interest.*

*Highlight specific climate sensitive sectors in the region - like agriculture or water resources - mentioning impacts of seasonal climate variations on their activities, along with a brief outline of potential applications of seasonal forecasting products for decision making.*

#### The RCOF background

*The RCOF details:*

- *when/how it started (e.g. preceded by a scoping workshop);*
- *coordinating institution(s) (e.g. RCC/RCC-network, an NMHS, a regional organization)*
- *sub-region/countries involved;*
- *collaborating partner institutions;*
- *typical frequency, target season(s), tentative dates of the session (physical, or online)*

*Note: Information already available in RCOF factsheets<sup>1</sup> published by WMO could be used, unless it needs to be updated.*

#### The RCOF process

*The RCOF implementation process, including the capacity development activities, the main forum structure, joint sessions with user involvement, sessions focused on specific sector(s), if any.*

*The current methodology/approach adopted for preparing the seasonal predictions and consensus outlook, including the global/regional/national technical inputs for the process. Indicate whether real-time products from GPC-LRFs are routinely accessed and used.*

*Evaluation of the previous season's consensus outlook:*

- *how is outlook skill evaluated, with which skill measures (verification metrics if any), and for what period, with what resulting skill score(s);*
- *how (or whether) is outlook skill communicated to users*

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<sup>1</sup> RCOF Factsheets published by WMO available at : [https://library.wmo.int/opac/doc\\_num.php?explnum\\_id=3191](https://library.wmo.int/opac/doc_num.php?explnum_id=3191)

*Further value addition and dissemination of outlooks to stakeholders at national scale, e.g., through National Climate Outlook Forums (NCOFs), or similar activities*

*Information updates between RCOF events, e.g., through a Climate Watch, monthly updates of forecasts etc., including through the operations of Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and its dissemination to stakeholders*

*Provision of climatological information together with the outlook (for context and information)*

### **Capacity needs**

*What are the main capacity needs of the major stakeholders observed to date, of the NMHSs? RCC? Users?*

*How are these needs being addressed through the RCOF process? How could they be further addressed?*

### **User involvement**

*How user needs are reflected in the forum, and after the forum,*

*Indicate the main (regional) users involved in RCOF*

*How is the forum used as a mechanism to collect user feedback? What are the main messages from feedback to date? What changes/plans have been made to address these (e.g., development of tailored products, forecasts of sector-specific variables)?*

*How are seasonal outlooks evaluated from user perspectives, and challenges met by them in the process of applying the information into decision making process identified, and how is this input addressed through the RCOF process?*

### **SWOT analysis**

*Describe the main Strengths (indicate key benefits realized, with some examples of success stories based on user feedback), Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) pertinent to the RCOF, both on regional and national scales.*

### **Sustainability of RCOF**

*Role of a Regional Climate Centre (RCC)/RCC-Network functioning in the concerned region in the RCOF process*

*Recognition of the role of RCOF by the countries in the region*

*Coordination mechanisms established (such as, a network of focal points, management group) to plan, organize the sessions, discuss challenges and find solutions (such as on-line sessions)*

*Existing funding mechanisms, need for mobilizing resources to sustain the RCOF; List some of the major projects implemented with support to the RCOF sessions. Suggest approaches for long-term sustainability with minimal dependence on external resources.*

### **Way forward**

*The future efforts in science (including key research questions and needs), operation, user engagement, sustainability.*

*Use of objective regional seasonal forecasts in preparing the outlook, and suggestions for the development of global standards for RCOF operational practices*

*Possibility to expand the RCOF product portfolio (such as monitoring information for the recent and current seasons, sub-seasonal information including onset date, rainfall distribution, etc., variables other than rainfall and temperature, impact-based outlooks, etc.)*