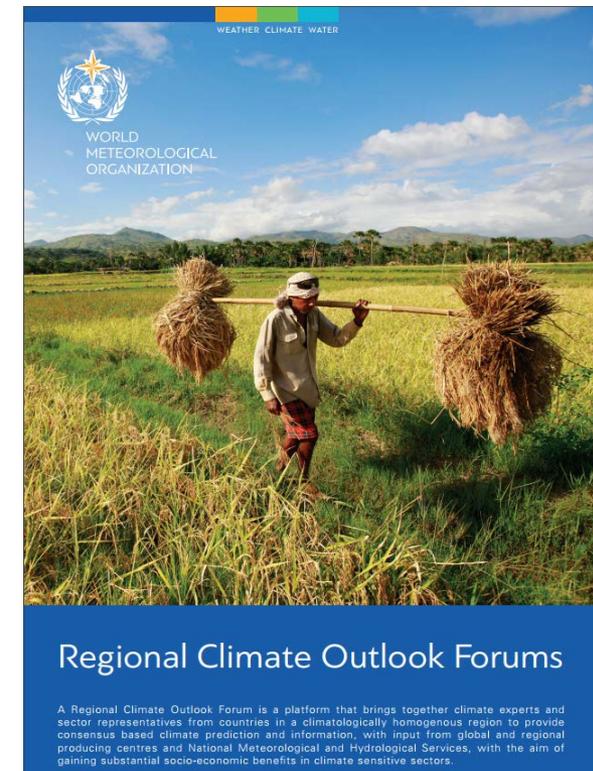
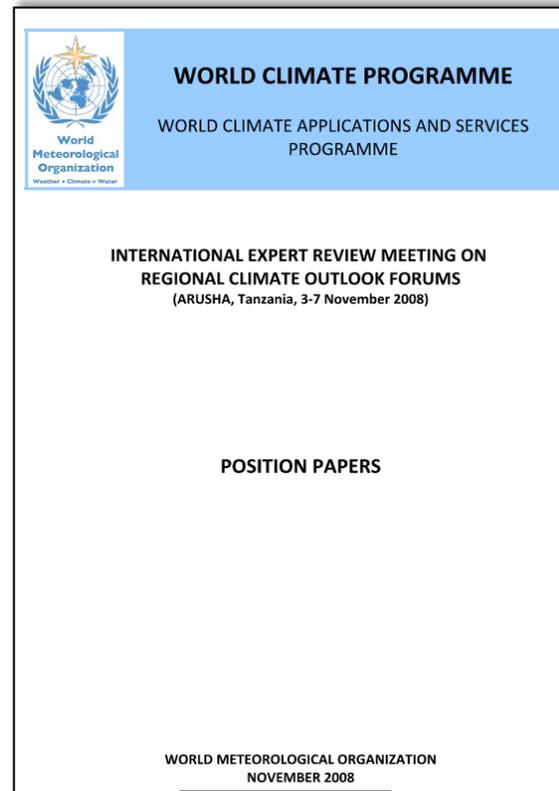
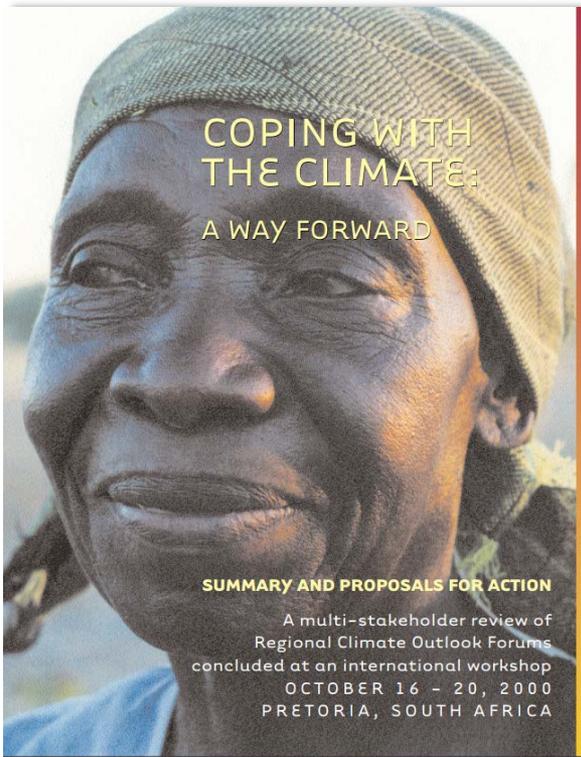


# Global RCOF Review 2017 Concept, goals and objectives”



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# Background

- Regional Climate Outlook Forum (RCOF) is a **platform that brings together** national, regional and international climate experts and stakeholders' representatives from countries with common interests to **provide climate predictions**.
- RCOFs **strengthen regional networking of the climate service providers and user-sector representatives**, as well as facilitate the development of climate capacity in the NMHSs.
- RCOFs aim to assess the likely implications of the outlooks on the **most pertinent socio-economic sectors in a given region**, and explore the ways in which use can be made of them.
- **First established in 1996** at a Meeting in **Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe**, RCOFs gained momentum as a regional response to the major 1997–1998 El Niño event.

# Operational RCOFs

<b>ASEANCOF</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations Climate Outlook Forum	<b>PRESAC</b>	Prévisions Climatiques Saisonnières en Afrique Centrale
<b>CACOF</b>	Central American Climate Outlook Forum	<b>PRESAGG</b>	Prévisions Climatiques Saisonnières pour les pays du Golfe de Guinée
<b>CariCOF</b>	Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum	<b>PRESANORD</b>	Prévisions Climatiques Saisonnières en Afrique du Nord
<b>EASCOF</b>	East Asia winter Climate Outlook Forum	<b>PRESASS</b>	Prévisions Climatiques Saisonnières en Afrique Soudano-Sahélienne
<b>FOCRAII</b>	Forum on Regional Climate Monitoring, Assessment and Prediction for Regional Association II (Asia)	<b>SARCOF</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		

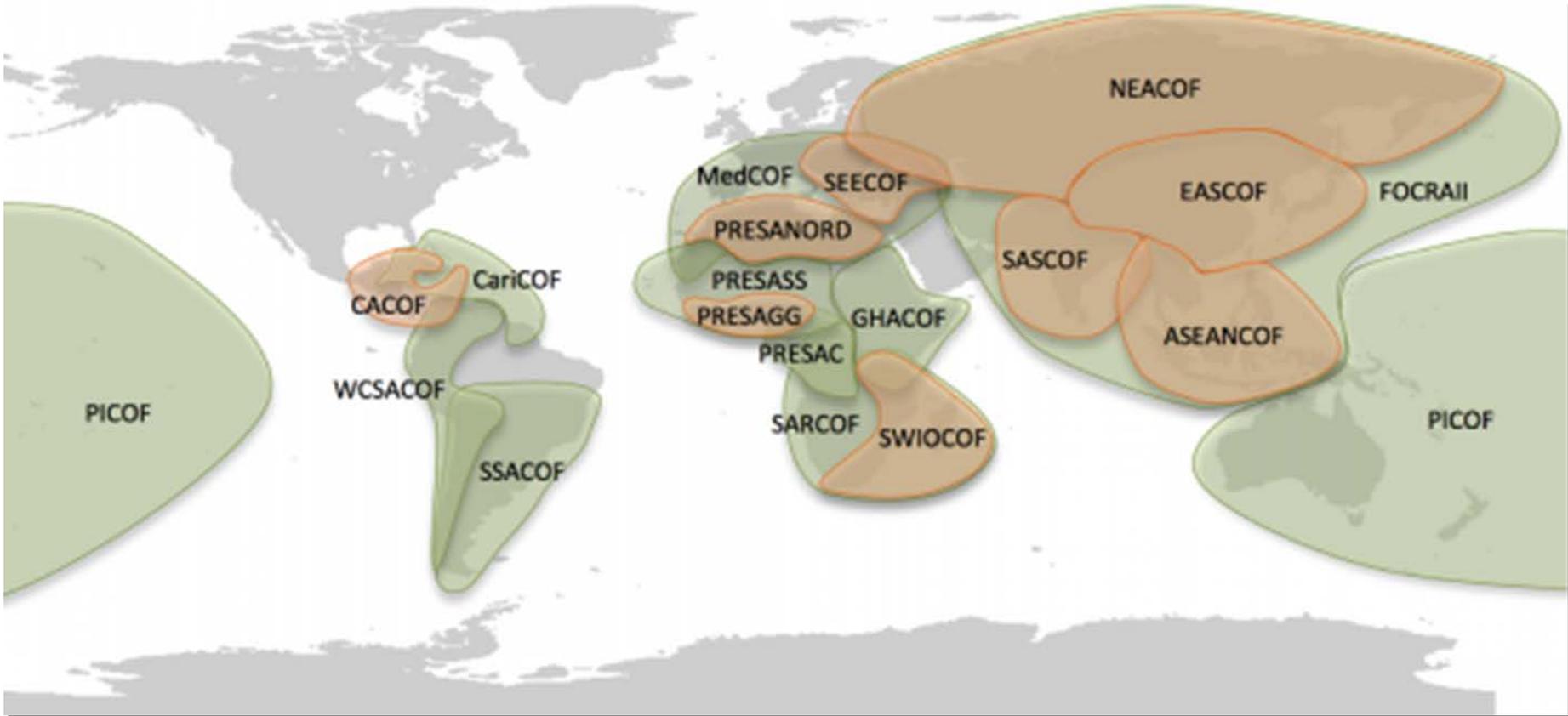
RCOF concept has spread worldwide, and completed 20 successful years of implementation, with 19 forums operational around the world.



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# Operational RCOFs



RCOF concept has spread worldwide, and completed 20 successful years of implementation, with 19 forums operational around the world.



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# RCOF Review 2008

## Conclusions and Recommendations



# Current Status (2008)

- Sustained operations in [several sub-regions](#)
- Mostly focused on [seasonal outlooks](#) and updates
- Helped [capacity building](#) at national levels
- Enhanced networking of climate information [providers and users](#)
- Raised the profile of [climate information](#) and supported its uptake in [user sectors/forums](#)
- Strong [multi-lateral support](#) in the beginning, but [increasing funding constraints](#)
- [Regional climate institutions](#) played a pivotal role in developing and sustaining RCOFs, with support from [WMO](#), [NOAA](#), [IRI](#), [Meteo France](#), [UKMO](#), [CMA](#), etc.
- RCOFs form part of [UNFCCC](#) compendium of methods and tools for climate change adaptation



# Recommendations

- Guiding principles of the Pretoria Review 2000 still apply; efforts made to implement them but **some challenges remain**.
- Expedite **Position Papers** taking into account RCOF **Review 2008 outcomes**; key recommendations required.
- **Common** framework for RCOF operations desirable, ensuring adequate flexibility to meet the region-specific needs.
- Better estimation and **communication of uncertainty** needed.
- RCOF operations need to be closely integrated into **WMO's GPC-RCC-RCOF-NMHS** framework.
- RCOF operations should be closely aligned to **support national climate services**.
- Success stories (e.g., **verification results, applications**) need to be highlighted.



# Recommendations contd.

- **Capacity building** (both human resources and infrastructure), particularly at national levels including user sectors, is still a **major requirement** particularly for developing and least developed countries; CLIPS initiatives to be integrated.
- Gaps in **observations and data** need to be identified and addressed.
- Gain **better understanding of user-level decision processes** to make RCOF products demand-driven.
- **Sustainability of RCOFs** to be addressed in a variety of ways: cost-sharing, optimal resource utilization, modern communication technology, demonstration projects, etc.
- More **research efforts needed** to improve/expand RCOF product portfolio (WCRP/academia engagement essential)
- Sustained **engagement of NMHSs** crucial for RCOF success



# Recommendations contd.

- **Expansion of RCOF** network required to cover other regions in need. Even developed regions stand to benefit from RCOFs.
- **Adaptation to climate change** offers new opportunities for RCOFs; efforts needed to use UNFCCC processes to highlight the potential of **RCOFs to support adaptation**.
- National/regional level **partnerships with user sectors** (including media and private sector) to be pursued to promote use of RCOF products and also to get feedback.
- **Ownership of RCOF** lies with the **participating NMHSs** and coordinating regional institutions, as an integral component of WMO's GPC-RCC-RCOF-NMHS framework.



# Position papers on RCOFs



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### Position Papers on RCOFs

An important outcome from the international expert meeting *RCOF Review 2008* (3-7 November 2008, Arusha, Tanzania) convened by WMO is the development of position papers devoted to the issues central to RCOF operations and further development. Specific topics identified for position papers include the following, along with the lead coordinators who had helped with the task:

Topic	Lead Coordinator
RCOF Operational Practices	J-P Ceron, Meteo France, Toulouse, France
User Liaison in RCOFs	R Martinez, CIIFEN, Guayaquil, Ecuador
Verification of RCOF Products	S Mason, IRI, Palisades, USA
Integration of Research into RCOFs	F Semazzi, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, USA
Capacity building in RCOFs	J Pahalad, Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, Australia
Sustainability of RCOFs	L Ogallo, ICPAC, Nairobi, Kenya

The consolidated collection of the position papers is available [here](#).

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_JBDwJv7hg9YVNaY0hIbWR6b1E/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_JBDwJv7hg9YVNaY0hIbWR6b1E/view)

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# The Objectives and Scope of the Global RCOF Review 2017

- The proposed Global RCOF Review 2017, being coordinated by WMO as part of the GFCS Climate Services Information System (CSIS) implementation, has the overarching objective of *reviewing carefully the processes currently in vogue at various RCOFs in order to determine the gaps and propose ways to make more effective delivery and communication of climate products and services for decision making in a sustainable manner.*

# The Objectives and Scope of the Global RCOF Review (cont`d)

- Review the **lessons learnt from nearly two decades** of RCOFs operation (user perceptions, sector-specific outlooks, methodologies, verification and sustainability).
- Identify **opportunities and innovative approaches and standardized operational practices** for generating RCOF outputs over the next decade.
- Consider possible **expansion of 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.)
- Identify opportunities to enhance the capacity development benefits of RCOFs **to strengthen NMHSs capacities to generate outlooks and tailored products** at country level.

# Expected outcomes

## Global RCOF Review 2017

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- Identification of **strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats** for RCOFs going forward, and priorities for addressing them;
  - Strategies for **fast-track optimization and stabilization of RCOF processes** according to identified priorities, and requirements for implementing these strategies;
  - An Action plan for the RCOFs' evolution, including the introduction of **objective seasonal climate forecast schemes**, new approaches including expanded product portfolio based on standardized operational practices identified during the workshop;
  - Identification of the roles of **RCCs in coordinating RCOF** sessions, and also providing regular updates to RCOF products between the sessions;
  - Strategies for effective promotion of the RCOF concept and further communication of RCOF products at the national level, including through **National Climate Outlook Forums** (NCOFs)
-

# The challenges ahead:

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- The mandate (EC-69) and need to move to **objective regional seasonal forecasts**.
  - The critical need to influence better on decision making for **prevention and preparedness actions** at national level.
  - The strong involvement of the **RCCs** in the RCOF operations.
  - To include the forecast of more **relevant variables or some specific values** of the predictand for particular thresholds.
-

# The challenges ahead:

- The evolution of the current [RCOFs to specific regional meetings](#) focused on identifying the physical climate drivers in the region, combination of models/predictors, preparing/sharing the data for forecast preparation and verification, capacity building and knowledge sharing, etc.
- The integration of the [research inputs in RCOF operations](#) to implement the subseasonal prediction.
- A new [capacity building strategy](#) to cope with the new challenges ahead.
- To make the [RCOF operations really attractive](#) to the Climate Change community and related [funding mechanisms](#) for adaptation.

Muchas gracias  
Thank you  
Merci



WMO OMM

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