

WMO Workshop on Global Review of RCOFs
Guayaquil, Ecuador, 5-7 September 2017.

Regional user engagement, sector
focused User evaluation and
applications in CA-RCOF sessions.

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**INTERNATIONAL EXPERT REVIEW MEETING ON
REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUMS
(ARUSHA, Tanzania, 3-7 November 2008)**

**Position Paper 1
RCOFs Operational Practices**

1.5 CONCLUDING REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Integrate climate outlooks, impacts assessments and actions or decision options for adaptation and risk management in future RCOFs products by engaging more forecast providers and users in a framework to encourage product improvements through iterations.



Central American Climate Outlook Forum (CA-RCOF)

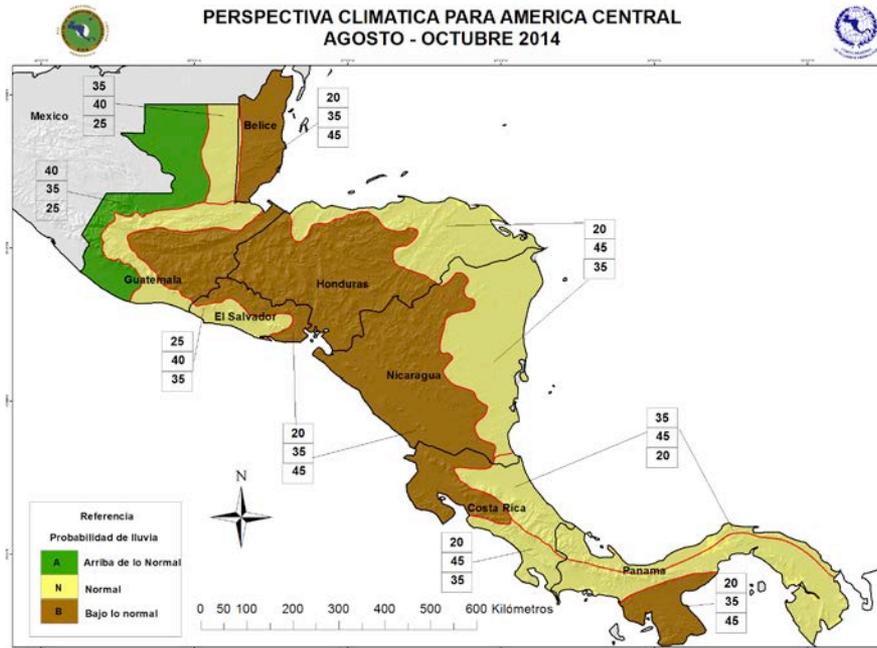
The Central American Climate Outlook Forum (CA-RCOF), coordinated by the Comité Regional de Recursos Hidráulicos (Regional Water Resources Committee CRRH-SICA), has consolidated a process to issue three seasonal outlooks per year bringing together the capacities of NMHSs in the Mesoamerican region.



Climate Outlook Application Forum (CA-COAF)

To facilitate the use of climate risk information for decision-making with the aim to reduce food insecurity risk, over the past 9 years CRRH-SICA has fostered a mechanism that turns the Outlook into climate risk scenarios for those sectors related to nutrition and food security, particularly agriculture, fisheries, potable water and health, as well as cross-cutting areas like risk management and emergency response.

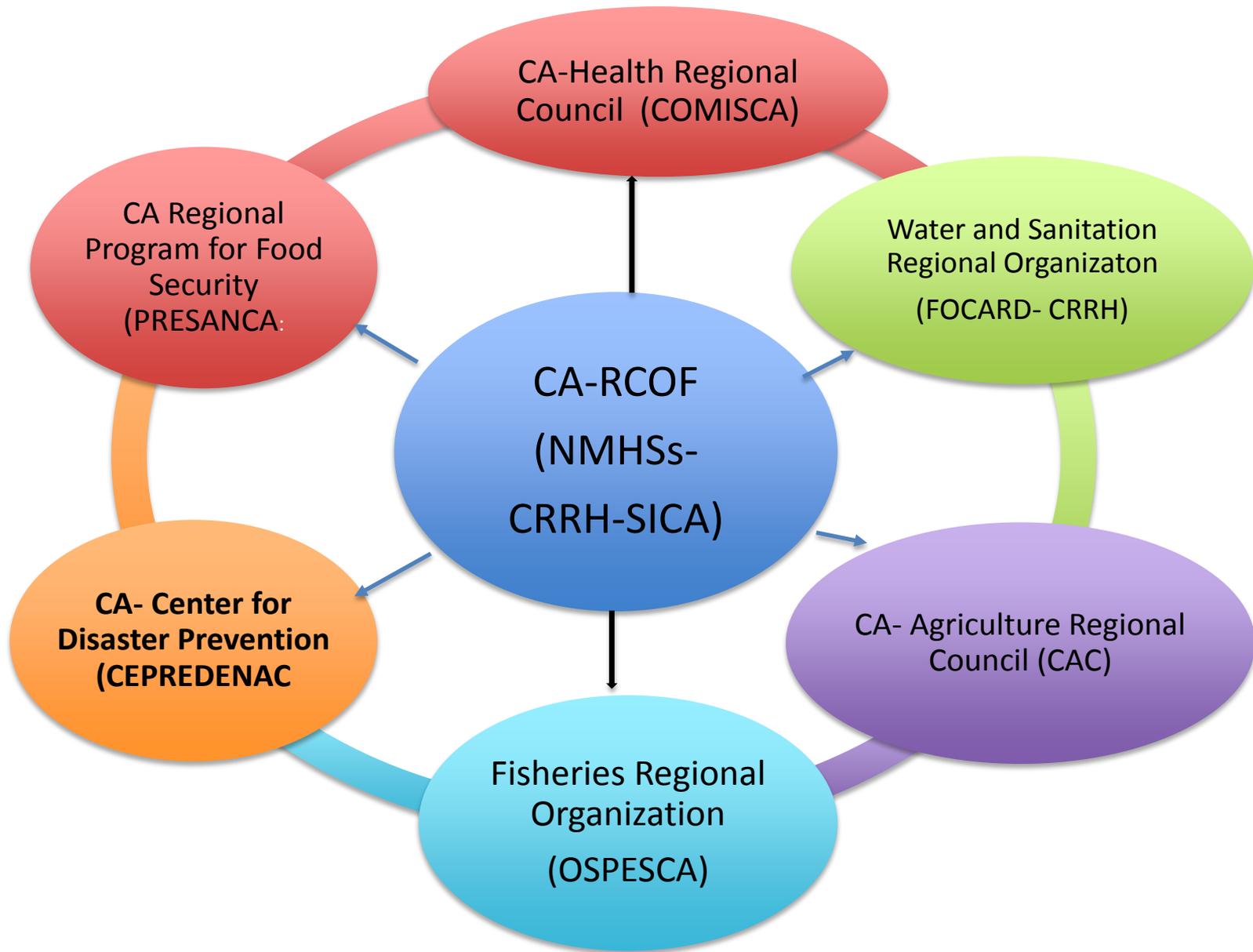
Central America Climate Outlook Application Forum (CA-COAF)



Experts from user sectors develop sectorial risk scenarios on the base of the seasonal climate outlook and propose preventive or mitigation measures.



Scheme for climate risk scenarios development under the institutionality of the Central America Integration System (SICA)



COAF Process.

Members of CA-RCOF share seasonal climate outlook with users in agriculture, water, health, fisheries, plant and animal health, food security and disaster management from all the member countries through “virtual” working tables.

XLIV CA-RCOF, 2014 July 15-17,
2014, Health Virtual Working Table



XLIV CA-RCOF, 2014 July 15-17,
2014. Water and Sanitation
Virtual Working Table.



Example of Outlook Applications developed by CA-COAF (1/2)

Season: ASO 2014

Country: Panama.

Sector: Agriculture and Husbandry

Tercile category: Below normal

Geographic area: Arco Seco (Southern part of Veraguas, southern part of Coclé and the provinces of Herrera y Los Santos).

Potential risk:

Considering the **ASO 2014 climate outlook** and the **BN** rains in the previous season, water scarcity for crops is likely.

Recommended measures (for Maize producers).

- Adjustment of planting calendar.
- Use of alternative seeds (shorter term cultivars)
- Contact the extension services for advise on other technical recomendations for water use and crop management under “dry” scenarios.

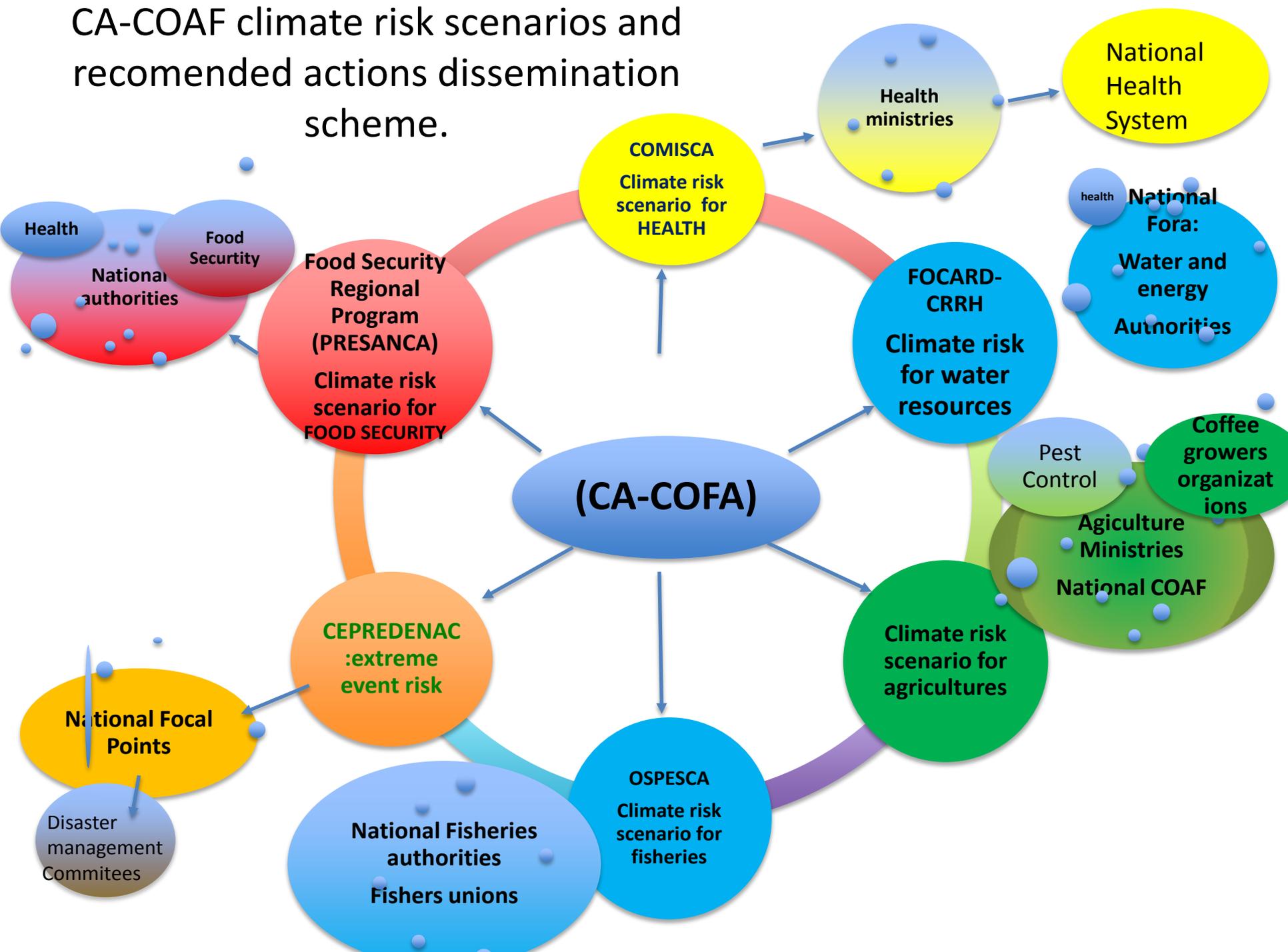
Example of Outlook Applications developed by CA-COAF (2/2)

Recommended measures for livestock farmers.

Warning : Conditions of the previous year and ASO 2014 BN rainfall outlook likely to worsen conditions in these second part of the rainy season and the coming dry season.

- Foreseen measures with additional water resources including rain harvest and small ponds storage.
- Prevent with additional food supply like sugar cane leaves, bagasse and bales.
- Animal Health Watch.
- Preventive sanitary measures for animals focused on more common diseases in dry periods (those presented in annexed list).
- Contact the extension services for advise on other technical recommendations for water use and animal management under “dry” scenarios.

CA-COAF climate risk scenarios and recommended actions dissemination scheme.



CA-COAF: Some lessons learned (1/2)

- Continuity of sectorial working groups has showed great value in knowledge and experience horizontal transfer between climatologists and interested users.
- Integration of users in “working tables” for the identification of specific climate risk in each individual sector and specific season, added value to Climate Outlooks and has increased trust and acceptance of the product with user sectors.
- Insertion of CA-COAF inside Central America Integration System (SICA) technical institutions as stakeholders, has increased interest and use of climate outlooks for decision making trough their national networks.

CA-COAF: Some lessons learned (2/2)

1. Strengthening of CA-COF outreach interface through COAF has extended CA-RCOF users base.
1. Development of COAF at national level in some of the countries to produce climate risk assessment and recommendation of preventive measures focused in national circumstances, has increase recognition of NMHSs efforts to develop climate services.

Challenges and opportunities (1/2)

- Need to increase CA-RCOF capacity for regular delivery of other products besides terciles forecast likewise rainy season onset and end dates, midsummer drought onset and length, dry spells probabilities, P20, P90 rainfall.
- Develop the potential for communication and user involvement through the new internet portal “CENTRO-CLIMA”.
- Need to gather and organize sectorial information about climate hazards and impacts of climate variability within sectors.
- Capacity building for user to enhance their capacity to understand climate forecast and products

Challenges and opportunities (2/2)

- Inclusion of verification information of COFs in the public bulletins *.
- Adequately monitor the use of COAF products by end – users. *
- Promotion with user sectors for their involvement in the long term sustainability of RCOF and COAF.

****Some initial research:***

Alfaro, E., H. Hidalgo, N. Mora, P. Pérez-Briceño, and B. Fallas, 2016. Assessment of Central America Regional Climate Outlook Forum maps, 1998-2013. *Tópicos Meteorológicos y Oceanográficos*. 15(1), 37-52.

(Moreno, M., 2015. Valoración del Impacto Socio Económico de la Variabilidad Climática en Pesca y Turismo. *Revista de Ciencias Sociales*, 147: 73-83

Thank You
Merci
Muchas
Gracias



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