

# Role of NMHSs in the follow-up integration of seasonal outlooks in decision-making process at country level

- how can we facilitate establishing national mechanisms for the integration of climate information in decision-making
- how can NCOFs be promoted and how much can they be realistically achieved? other mechanisms?
- distinguish between needs for tailoring and need for improved communication

# Other mechanisms

- 6 countries in Africa: National framework for climate services. Meetings with sectors, even if NCOFs are not in place. The scope is somehow different, but may be a mechanism for sustainability of NCOFs or overlapping activities. Regional mechanism is well in place, technically and politically. ONG's have a key role in the upscaling process
- Centro america: 3-month outlooks, intermediate (virtual) updates Installed facilities in every country. Organized with NMHS and national stakeholders in virtual meetings. 53 physical regional meetings supported by regional stakeholders. NMHSs organize their own dialogue with sectors. Nationally, takes the form of sector tables.

(cont.)

- Pacific Islands: National updates and briefings (by NMHs). RCOF is behind
- Argentina: monthly NCOFs operational since 2007, coordinated by SMN. The process for decision making is quite well installed from the technical level (some sectors)

# Challenges in the national context

- **NFCS**, NCOFs, briefings (nee for an official role, **mandate across government**, reaching decision level,...)
- locally, to have the experts to address the needs, sometimes not considered a priority by local authorities. Only if implemented in a national Strategy framework. **Link to high-level objectives would lead to sustainability**. HOW can we facilitate that process? (go to 1)
- Risk: to get stuck into an inner loop of people attending the fora.
- Opportunity: initiatives usually arise from these motivated groups of people

# Good practices and some responsibilities for NCOF'S/NCF's

- Add value to regional products, downscaling, integrate observation networks from different stakeholders, data sharing.
- Monitoring, understanding predictability (goes together with communicating effectively skill and deal with expectations) (Note that Some countries do not have a well established climatology/historical data)
- add confidence level / standarization
- to provide intraseasonal updates in the context of the seasonal outlook
  - To get a meaningful forecast
  - To preserve the value of the Outlook

# Good practices (methodological)

- **Shift ownership: the sector to lead the production process** and demand from the NMHS the necessary information. Mechanisms to connect to stakeholders are already in place.
- Validation from the user perspective. Actions influenced by the climate information (not the only factor)
- NMHS to steer the process of the NCOF so that contributions emerge from genuine scientific / sector knowledge
- To provide/communicate a sensible and scientifically consistent view

# How can this be realistically achieved

- Institutionalization into existing governmental structures (such as DRR)
- Co-productions (at planning level): demonstration projects to lead to final agreements

# *how can we help*

- Prove that this mechanism is useful for connecting to stakeholders (good practices, document and make public some cases of success)
  - Africa
  - Central America
- Communicate on feedback processes in place, cases of informed decision

# Requirements to RCOF (to be addressed to RCC)

- convert maps into objective impact products to be input to specific sector models (crops, etc). Too much to ask operationally for an RCC? Should only enable capacities (by CB, etc)
- build material regionally (eg: Africa), such as contingency maps, climate scenarios. Regional users.
- RCCs and, eventually, RCOFs, to consider /adjust to the needed timeliness of the process. Commitment to national users needs, including NMHSs?
- CB instrument + regional scale services

# Improved communication

- training a group of users to perform tailored communication to sector
- to develop a communication strategy (what to communicate, which are the effective channels, be aware of perceptions that may emerge from the outlooks
- to moderate user expectations, communicate the relevance of intraseasonal patterns, communicate effectively the spatial and time scale of the outlook, Use examples of past situations. Put in context.
- Information on risk: communicate effectively so to get the right actions from decision-makers. Examples what may happen
- It would be a good idea to include on-line videos in communication