

WMO Workshop on Climate Monitoring including the implementation of Climate Watch Systems in RA-I with focus on Eastern and Southern Africa

Pretoria, South Africa

15 - 18 April 2013

Venue:

**Swanlake Hotel
98 Erasmus Avenue, Raslouw, Centurion
PO Box 55076, Wierdapark, 0149
<http://swanlake.co.za/>**

Rationale

In recent decades, climate variability and climate extremes have resulted in increasingly noticeable impacts on societies in countries throughout the world. The IPCC 4th Assessment Report states: "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level. At continental, regional, and ocean basin scales, numerous long-term changes in climate have been observed. These include changes in Arctic temperatures and ice, widespread changes in precipitation amounts, ocean salinity, wind patterns and aspects of extreme weather including droughts, heavy precipitation, heat waves and the intensity of tropical cyclones."

With regards to climate and weather related extremes, WMO through its various programs works with its Members to help countries to make the transition from "crisis management" policies to "risk assessment/risk management" policies and considers that it is important that information on the state of the climate is provided to relevant decision-making organizations, such as governments, agricultural agencies, emergency management services, and water resource management agencies.

A Climate Watch is delivered as an alert/advisory on foreseen and/or evolving climate anomalies with possible negative impacts. Its preparation is based on one hand on climate observations, climate monitoring products and long range forecasts, and on the other hand, on the existing information on the socio-economic impacts of various global and regional climate patterns and extremes. Such patterns would be ENSO, MJO, NAO, Indian Ocean Dipole, etc... Therefore, a "Climate Watch" can serve as a mechanism to heighten awareness in the user community that a significant climate anomaly exists or might develop and that preparedness measures should be initiated.

Given the advances in climate monitoring and long range forecasting during the last two decades, it is now feasible for NMHSs to issue climate watches to help reduce socio-economic vulnerability by improving preparedness procedures for adverse climatic conditions.

In collaboration with WMO Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) and Commission for Climatology (CCI) experts, WMO developed in 2005 a technical document on "Climate Watches" referenced as WCDMP-No. 58, WMO/TD-No.1269, and available in electronic format at the WMO website: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcdmp/documents/GuidelinesonClimateWatches.pdf>

The document describes the concept of climate watch, and guidelines for establishing, operating and evaluating climate watches.

Based on this development, Congress-XV discussed Climate System Monitoring and Climate Watches and various efforts undertaken through the WMO/WCDMP and CCI to provide information and assistance on how to organize and implement climate watches. It requested therefore WMO to support the organization of regional seminars/workshops on climate monitoring and climate watches and issued a resolution on future climate monitoring priorities which include: To enhance climate monitoring capabilities for the generation of higher quality and new types of products and services.

The WMO series of regional workshops on climate watches constitute a leverage in achieving this new type of products and services and aim at building capacity of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) as well as of the regional climate institutions in the regions in need and hence enabling them to better contribute to the Implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)

The Executive Council, EC-LX, Geneva, 18 to 27 June 2008, noted the urgent need for NMHSs and regional climate institutions to make use of best practices in delivery, provision and evaluation of climate watches, and in managing efficiently and seamlessly the interaction among the three involved parties: Regional institutions, NMHSs and end users. The Council urged all Members to assist in providing technical assistance to help developing and Least Developed Countries to implement a Climate Watch System. The Council recognized the benefits of regional workshops to implement climate watches and noted the limited availability of funds for these activities. The Council

therefore requested the Secretary-General to promote mobilization of extra-budgetary resources to carry this activity in all regions in need;

Congress-XVI requested the Secretary-General of the WMO to continue the support for this activity and promote resource mobilization to assist in the organization of more of such regional workshops, particularly for developing and least developed countries.

Objectives of the Workshop

The Workshop is sponsored by WMO and coordinated by the World Climate Data and Monitoring Division (DMA). It will address the implementation of climate watches in the region with focus on the sub region of Eastern and Southern Africa. The implementation of Climate Watch Systems in the region should be based on the existing infrastructure and expertise at national and regional level. The ultimate goal is to ensure that NMHSs and regional climate institutions make use of best practices in delivery, provision and evaluation of climate watches, and implement best practices in managing efficiently and seamlessly the interaction among the three involved parties: Regional institutions, NMHSs and end users. All presentations and summaries of working groups and recommendations will be included in the proceedings of the workshop which will be published some months after its completion.

A dedicated session on analyzing annual and decadal climate data will be used to help countries provide their input to the WMO Climate System Monitoring, including annual statements on the global climate and the decadal global climate summary for 2001-2010.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Address the need for climate watches in the region,
- Review the status of climate monitoring and long range forecasting capabilities at regional and national level,
- Review and discuss climate watch showcases from the region and from abroad,
- Work on tailoring the WMO guidelines on climate watches to the region needs,
- Provide guidance and hands-on practical session for contributing the WMO Climate System Monitoring CSM (annual and decadal scale)
- Recommend best practices for the region in issuing climate watches,
- Recommend best strategies towards users of climate watches,
- Develop an action plan to implement climate watches at national and regional level,
- Recommend a follow-up mechanism on the implementation of climate watches.

Linkage with WMO projects and activities

- Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)
- World Climate Research Program (WCRP)
- Climate extremes and Climate Change Indices (CCI/CLIVAR/JCOMM Expert Team on Climate Change Detection and Indices - ETCCDI)
- Disaster Risk Reduction Program (DRR)

Organizing Committee

Chair:	Prof. Laban Ogallo	(ICPAC)
Members:	Omar Baddour	(WMO)
	Michelle L'Heureux	(NOAA, USA)
	Andries Kruger	(SAWS, South Africa)
	Ezekiel Sebegu	(SAWS, South Africa)
	Blair Trewin	(BoM, Australia)

Participants

- Experts from NMHSs
- Experts from ACMAD, SADC-CSC and ICPAC
- International experts
- Participants from the user community from South Africa

Invited countries

Angola
Botswana
Burundi
Ethiopia
Kenya
Lesotho
Malawi
Mozambique
Namibia
Rwanda
Sudan
South Africa
South Sudan
Swaziland
Tanzania
Uganda
Zimbabwe

INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Date and Place

15 – 18 April 2013, Pretoria, South Africa

Visa/Entry requirement

All visitors to South Africa are required to have valid passports. Participants are kindly requested to inquire about visa requirements from the nearest Embassy/Consulate of South Africa in their respective countries. If required, the host can provide a letter of invitation in support of the visa application; participants are requested to complete the visa registration form and send it to the local coordinator at the South African Weather Service Prof. Themba Dube (themba.dube@weathersa.co.za) for this purpose.

Registration of participants

Registration of participants will start on 15 April 2013 at 08h30 or at arrival in the hotel. Participants will receive identification cards at the time of registration.

Opening/Closure

The meeting will open on 15 April 2013 at 09h30. The meeting will end on on 18 April 2013 at 17:00.

Documents and Data requirements for the Meeting

It is planned to distribute most of the documents to participants prior to the meeting by e-mail. Any late documents will be made available at the time of the meeting.

Participants will be requested to provide data prior to the workshop for the preparation of the hands-on practical session. The data and its format will be sent to the participants.

Accommodation

In order to take advantage of the special rate, participants must confirm attendance by **31 March 2013** (even if final travel itinerary is not available yet) and provide their itinerary as soon as possible to WMO and the local organizers, so that the Local Organizing Committee can send a required letter to the hotel accommodation and meals will be provided free of charge by the organizers as well as morning and afternoon coffee/tea during the workshop. A lump sum will be provided at the venue to the participants from Africa to cover other expenses

Transportation between Airport – Hotel – Venue

Airport is located in Johannesburg, and about 50 km from the Hotel venue. The local organizing committee will arrange for a transfer of participants from the airport to the hotel venue. The workshop will take place in the same hotel.

Currency

The official currency in South Africa is Rand (ZAR) .Currency exchange centers can be found at airport, local banks. The exchange rate for USD and EURO fluctuate with time. Recent examples are:

1 ZAR = 0.11 USD

1 ZAR = 0.08 Euro

The venue

The meeting will be held from 15 - 18 April 2013 in the Conference Hall of the hotel. For any additional local information or assistance that you may require, please contact:

Prof. Themba Dube (themba.dube@weathersa.co.za)

Internet

Wireless network access will be provided at the Conference Hall during the workshop. Internet and e-mail are also accessible for participants at the hotels.

Local Weather and Clothing

<http://worldweather.wmo.int/035/c00139.htm>

WMO contact and coordination

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