



Our ref.: 30288/2018/ETR/PACC/RCC 29 November 2018

Annex: 1

Subject: Invitation to the Networking Conference (Rome, Italy, 4 and 5 February 2019) as part of the Training Program on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Agriculture (PACC/RCC)

Action required: Confirmation of participation and nomination by **10 December 2018**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that, at the kind invitation of the Institute of Biometeorology of the National Research Council of Italy (IBIMET), the Networking Conference, which is an integral part of the Training Program on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Agriculture (PACC/RCC) launched in 2016, will be held in Rome, Italy, on 4 and 5 February 2019.

This conference will gather together the Directors of meteorological services of participating countries of the region, as well as those in high-levels of responsibility in the Ministries to which the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) belong, or with whom they coordinate. The aim of this conference is to enhance the technical and scientific cooperation among NMHSs and their partners and to promote strategic collaboration on capacity development, from the perspective of providing operational climatic services for disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change in agriculture and other key sectors. Further information is available in the attached concept note.

I have pleasure in inviting you to attend this final event of the PACC/RCC project, and to enlist your cooperation in engaging the full participation required for its success.

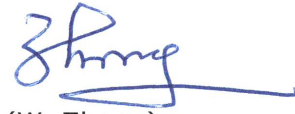
In addition to your attendance, I should be grateful if you could identify and invite regional and national colleagues at high levels in your Ministries or in international organizations that have responsibilities for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. I would like to include at least one other high-level official from each project country. The organizers will also invite four trainees from the project training events to make contributions. Support for attending this important event will be provided to all participants through the project.

I should be grateful if you could kindly confirm your attendance and send the names and addresses of the persons nominated as the representatives of ministries and/or international organization to WMO Secretariat by email (tra@wmo.int) as soon as possible, but preferably not later than **10 December 2018**. If your meteorological service will be represented by someone else, you will be kindly request to provide a formal nomination letter duly signed by yourself. A formal invitation from IBIMET will be sent upon receipt of your confirmation and nominations of the representatives.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (limited distribution)

I would like to express my appreciation for your continued support in promoting the Programmes and Activities of WMO.

Yours faithfully,



(W. Zhang)
for the Secretary-General



Training Program on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Agriculture



PACC RRC TRAINING PROGRAMME Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Agriculture

Climate Services for West Africa
International conference
Rome, 4-5 February 2019



**AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO**

Partnership	WMO (World Meteorological Organization), IBIMET-CNR (Italy), AGRHYMET Regional Centre (CILSS/ECOWAS),
General objective	To reduce the impacts of Natural Disaster and Climate Change on the agricultural sector in West Africa.
Specific objective	To improve the capacity of West African national technical services to support government actions in sustainable development and food security, in response to climate change, natural disasters and their associated risks.
Project's duration	20 months
Target Countries	Western Africa CILSS/ECOWAS states Members
Target groups	Experts of National Agriculture, Agro-Meteorological, Hydrological and Early Warning Services.
Project's typology	Capacity Building (Art. 18)
Budget	€ 822,843.27
UN Millennium Goals	Goal 1 : Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger Goal 7 : Ensure environmental sustainability

Concept note

This concept note describes the goals and rationale behind the upcoming Networking Conference for high-level officials to promote strategic collaboration on capacity development for delivery of climate services in CILSS and ECOWAS countries.

Climate variability and associated risks are affecting different economic sectors, and particularly food security. Sub-Saharan Africa is already facing a combination of climatic, sociological and economic challenges requiring research centers, central and local government agencies, international organizations and end-users to find new and innovative ways to interpret, apply and disseminate climate information for decision-making (Bruno Soares et al., 2016). Climate information is a valuable resource for planning and decision-making, but the challenge is to transform information to services tailored to specific users (*Guide to Climatological Practices*, WMO-No. 100, 2011). It is a two-fold challenge: on one side acquiring the capacity to transform meteo-climatic information into useful “information products” tailored on users’ needs, on the other hand implementing training initiatives and knowledge-sharing tools to allow key users to hone their skills and competences.

In 2009, World Climate Conference-3 acknowledged **Capacity Development** as a transversal component underpinning all the other Pillars of the **Global Framework for Climate Services** (*Implementation Plan of the Global Framework for Climate Services*, WMO - 2014). The global scale of learning needs for climate services calls for innovative solutions, collaborative projects, a range of flexible modalities to reach learners in a variety of ways, and for sharing resources and successful strategies within the global community. Within the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Education and Training Programme, the network of **Regional Training Centers** (RTC) play a major role in helping member countries develop operational Climate Services (CS).

According to the *Status of Human Resources in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services*, (ETR-21, 2017), unmet learning demands impact more than 20% of the global NMHS workforce. In least developed countries (LDC) the situation is even worse because of retirements (30 of 81 LDC reported that more than 30% of their staff were due to retire in the next five years). Addressing the education and training challenge will require a concerted effort by the education and training community, with the support of governments, regional development partners and the international aid, using a mix of traditional classroom, online learning, mentoring and coaching and self-guided learning methods.

Within this context, the **PACC-RRC** project was designed by WMO and two of its Regional Training Centers (AGRHYMET and IBIMET-CNR) to build the capacities of experts in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, other national technical services, specialized agencies and other public and private institutions in the 17 member states of CILSS/ECOWAS (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo). Four training courses have been organized in the target service areas of Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction. The recipients improved their skills through training courses and enhanced their networking capacity through follow-up actions and post-course activities.

As a final project activity, a **networking conference** will be organized in Rome, Italy, on 4 and 5 February 2019. The conference will gather those in high-levels of responsibility in the Ministries to which NMHS belong and coordinate with, as well as the Directors of Meteorological Services of the Region. The conference will further promote the strategic collaboration of involved countries with WMO and Italy. The aim of this conference is to enhance technical and scientific cooperation among National Meteorological Services and to promote strategic collaboration on capacity development, in the perspective of providing operational climatic services for disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change in agriculture and other key sectors.

During the conference, an evaluation of the training program will be conducted. A participatory process to co-design **a new collaborative capacity development initiative to support the development of Climate Services for West Africa** will be carried out with the participation of representatives of the CILSS/ECOWAS countries, of WMO, AICS, AGRHYMET, IBIMET-CNR and international experts.

Working group discussions will be encouraged, and outcomes reported during plenary session(s), to allow as many participants as possible to share their expertise on critical issues, and on the co-design of a new capacity development initiative.

Documents to be reviewed and discussed in working groups and plenary session(s) will be distributed to participants prior to the Conference.

The new initiative, following the outcomes and recommendations of the SYMET-13 (*An International Agenda for Education and Training in Meteorology and Hydrology* WMO-No. 1219, 2018), might foster such cooperation, providing a solid foundation for increased sharing of training resources and approaches, offering learning opportunities, developing model or common accreditation, certification, evaluation and assessment systems. The new initiative will contribute to the operational implementation of the WMO Global Campus, encouraging multilateral collaboration among RTCs and other training institutions and by providing a shared and open platform for sharing training contents, tools and learning technologies that all providers and users could use.

Organizing committee:

Yinka Adebayo (WMO), yadebayo@wmo.int

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PACC-RRC Conference - Survey on Capacity Development for Climate Services

To be returned by email to the organizing committee at m.baldi@ibimet.cnr.it

Ref.: 30289/2018-1.1 DRA/ETR

This survey aims to provide the context and the justification for a future collaborative initiative on capacity development supporting the operational implementation of Climate Services in West Africa.

About yourself

1. From which Institution are you coming from and your role?
(NMHS, Agrometeorological service, Ministry, etc.)

2. Are you in charge of planning the education/training of your staff?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Production and tailoring of Climate Services/Information in your Country

3. Is your Institution responsible for providing climate services/information at national level?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Are there other Institutions providing climate services/information at national level in your Country?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. If Yes, please, describe:

6. For which of the following sectors specific climate-related information is **currently produced** by your Institution?

☐ DRR and preparedness sector

☐ Disaster management sector

☐ Agricultural sector

☐ Health sector

☐ Water resources management sector

☐ Energy sector

☐ Other sectors (*please specify*) _____

7. For which of the following sectors your institution wishes (or is asked) to produce specific climate services?
- ☐ DRR and preparedness sector
 - ☐ Disaster management sector
 - ☐ Agricultural sector
 - ☐ Health sector
 - ☐ Water resources management sector
 - ☐ Energy sector
 - ☐ Other sectors (please specify) _____
8. What climate information products/services are produced by your Institution (*mark all that apply*)?
- ☐ Climate observations
 - ☐ Climate data management
 - ☐ Interaction with users (*please specify*) _____
 - ☐ Seasonal climate outlook
 - ☐ Climate monitoring
 - ☐ Specialized climate products (*please specify*) _____
 - ☐ Decadal climate prediction
 - ☐ Long-term climate projections
 - ☐ Customized climate products (*please specify*) _____
 - ☐ Climate application tools (*please specify*) _____
9. From the list above, what outstanding climate information products/services are needed in your Country that are not currently provided?
- _____

Communication of Climate Services/Information in your Country

10. Which are the communication channels used to disseminate climate information to end users in your Country?
- ☐ Television (including special warning arrangements);
 - ☐ Radio (including special warning arrangements);
 - ☐ Newspapers;
 - ☐ Telephone, mobile phone (including short message systems - SMS);
 - ☐ Facsimile;
 - ☐ Internet and NMS websites;
 - ☐ Specific APP for mobile phones.
11. In your Country are the communication channels through which end users receive climate information appropriate?
- ☐ Yes ☐ No

12. Does your Institution rely on trained professionals to communicate climate information, services, and warnings?
☐ Yes ☐ No
13. Does your Institution need more training in communication of climate information, services, and warnings?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Competencies for production, tailoring, communication of Climate Services

14. Among the following competencies, which need to be addressed by training?
- a. Create and manage climate data sets (*Climate data, metadata and climate data products are gathered and stored in datasets, quality controlled and assessed for homogeneity*)
☐ Yes ☐ No
 - b. Derive products from climate data (*Climate data products are derived from different sources of climate data such as observed and reconstructed time series, reanalysis, satellite and modelled data, applying statistics which describe their spatial and temporal characteristics*)
☐ Yes ☐ No
 - c. Create and/or interpret climate forecasts and model output (*Climate data, climate data products and climate models output are operated and used to create sub-seasonal and seasonal climate forecasts and future climate projections*)
☐ Yes ☐ No
 - d. Ensure the quality of climate information and services (*Climate information and services are defined and routinely updated. Best Practices are followed and/or Guidelines and Quality Management Procedures for climate information are created and routinely maintained. Monitoring processes of the climate services are documented and used in quality control activities*)
☐ Yes ☐ No
 - e. Communicate climatological information with users (*Climate science, data and products are communicated to policymakers, stakeholders and the general public*)
☐ Yes ☐ No
15. Is your Institution or other National Institution (University, other Services, etc.) providing or is planning to provide the required training?
☐ Yes ☐ No

COPERNICUS Initiative

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Copernicus is the European Union's Earth Observation Programme. The Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) is operated by ECMWF. It combines observations of the climate system with information about the past, current and future states of the climate in Europe and worldwide.

16. Are you aware of Copernicus initiative (<http://copernicus.eu/main/services>)?
__Yes __No

17. Which are the Copernicus services that could be more interesting for supporting decision making in your country? Please, rate the following Copernicus Climate Services on a 1 to 5 scale (1 least interesting, 5 the most)

- __ Water (EDGE/SWICCA)
__ Energy (ECEM/CLIM4ENERGY)
__ Agriculture (AGRICLASS)
__ Health (UrbanSIS)
__ Insurance (WISC)

If no one, please, explain

18. Would you be interested to be actively involved in the co-development of such services for West Africa?
__Yes __No
