

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale  
Organización Meteorológica Mundial  
Всемирная метеорологическая организация  
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية  
世界气象组织

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7 January 2025

**Subject:** Project development process initiated for project "Integrated Drought Management for South Asia", to be submitted to the Adaptation Fund

**Action required:** Nomination of Focal Point to engage in the development of pre-concept note

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to inform you that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) launched the Regional Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Strategy for South Asia on 10 December 2024 at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 16) to the UNCCD. Against this background, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), in partnership with the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), the UNCCD and interested country representatives, have decided to develop a regional project which aims to strengthen integrated drought management in seven South Asian countries.

The project's overarching goal would be to reduce vulnerability to droughts and strengthen drought resilience in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The project aims to achieve this goal by establishing or updating regional and national drought policies, reinforcing institutional frameworks, and enhancing capacity in integrated water resources and drought risk management. Importantly, the project will lay the foundation for establishing or strengthening and operationalizing Climate Information and Early Warning Systems needed for immediate drought risk management, but also to inform investment planning for medium to long-term drought risk mitigation. Emphasizing a community-centric approach, the project seeks to address the unique challenges, needs, and requirements of each country participating in the project, based on the country's current drought management baseline. It is imperative to acknowledge that every country participating in the project faces distinct obstacles, and the project endeavours to address national-level gaps while allowing regional exchange and cooperation to strengthen in-country progress.

The regional project plans to seek financing from the Adaptation Fund, with WMO as the Implementing Entity. The Adaptation Fund requires submission of a pre-concept note to start the project funding application process. Upon the Fund's approval of this pre-concept note, the full project proposal development process can commence. The submission of a pre-concept note for a regional project requires inclusion of an endorsement letter from the National Designated Authority (NDA) to the Adaptation Fund of the participating country. In this regard, we already informed the NDA of your country. Subsequently, as the project

**To:** Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka with WMO (limited distribution)

**cc:** Hydrological Advisers

development process unfolds, consultations with you, the Adaptation Fund NDAs, and other relevant stakeholders will be organized both at national and regional levels.

Kindly note that the funding for a regional project from the Adaptation Fund is provided separately and in addition to the national allocations. In other words, participation in this regional project will not impact the availability of country's national allocation with the Adaptation Fund.

In this context, I would like to invite you to nominate a Focal Point from your National Meteorological and Hydrological Service to support the preparation of the pre-concept note. Kindly note that other relevant stakeholders and authorities concerned with drought management in your country (if applicable) will also be involved.

I would be grateful if you could kindly send your response to Ms Stephanie Gallasch ([sgallasch@wmo.int](mailto:sgallasch@wmo.int)), Project Officer, Project Development and Management Unit at the WMO Secretariat, no later than **1 February 2025**.

I hereby reiterate WMO's commitment to support its Members in strengthening their early warning systems.

I look forward with appreciation to the opportunity for continued collaborative engagement.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Celeste Saulo  
Secretary-General