



Our ref.: 6427820/2025/S/DMPS/SWFP

14 August 2025

Annexes: 2 (available in English only)

Subject: WMO Severe Weather Forecasting Programme (SWFP) – Regional
Subprogramme for Central Africa (SWFP-Central Africa)

Action required: To convey update on your Service's national SWFP focal point **by
25 August 2025**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you might be aware, the [World Meteorological Organization \(WMO\) Severe Weather Forecasting Programme \(SWFP\)](#) has been implemented in various subregions of the world to support the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in developing countries, including least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), to deliver improved forecasts and early warnings of severe weather. SWFP makes efficient use of the "cascading forecasting process" with contributions from the [WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System \(WIPPS\)](#) Centres. Numerical weather prediction (NWP) outputs are made available from the contributing World Meteorological Centres (WMCs) and the daily severe weather forecast guidance product is issued to the NMHSs by the relevant Regional Centre(s) in each subregion.

As an enabler to the [United Nations Early Warnings for All \(EW4All\) initiative](#), SWFP is being scaled up by WMO through an expansion of its geographical coverage to more countries and subregions, in addition to improving severe weather guidance products for various hydrometeorological hazards as appropriate and feasible, in collaboration with WMO Members and with support from our development partners and donors.

The implementation of [SWFP- Central Africa](#) was initiated in 2019 with a [technical planning workshop \(N'Djamena, 29 October – 1 November 2019\)](#). In the absence of a regional centre in Central Africa, the technical workshop agreed that the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) Dakar (for SWFP-West Africa) may also consider providing regional severe weather forecasting (SWF) guidance products to the NMHSs in Central Africa. Subsequently, several meetings of the national SWFP focal points from NMHSs of countries involved in SWFP-Central Africa and RSMC Dakar were held in 2021 to agree on the list of NWP products and criteria for the regional SWF guidance products. RSMC Dakar started issuing its regional SWF guidance products towards NMHSs on countries in Central Africa in 2023.

Following the recent [capacity development activities](#) at RSMC Dakar and the Department of National Meteorology (DNM) of Cameroon (the potential Regional Forecast Support Centre for SWFP-Central Africa) through Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) funded projects in West and Central Africa, the WMO Secretariat is planning to organize an online technical meeting of the SWFP focal points/experts in early September 2025

To: Permanent Representatives of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe (limited distribution)

cc: Permanent Representatives of Canada, France, Senegal, United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with WMO, and Director General of ECMWF
President of Regional Association I

as feasible, in collaboration with RSMC Dakar and the DNM Cameroon. The meeting will discuss the way forward to strengthen severe weather forecasting and early warning services in Central Africa, and agree on the potential role of a Regional Forecast Support Centre within the framework of SWFP-Central Africa.

In this context, you are kindly requested to review and update your Service's national SWFP focal point as/if needed. The list of existing SWFP focal points/experts is given in [Annex I](#). Should there be need for your Service to update the information, please complete the prescribed designation form ([Annex II](#)) and return it to Mr Ata Hussain (ahussain@wmo.int) at the WMO Secretariat at your earliest convenience, but preferably **by 25 August 2025**.

I would like to express my appreciation for your continued support to the WMO activities including SWFP.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ko Barrett', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ms Ko Barrett
for the Secretary-General

LIST OF SWFP FOCAL POINTS/EXPERTS

Sr #	Country	Name of SWFP FP	Email contact
1	Cameroon	Mr Hans Ndonwi Ambessi	hansndonwi@gmail.com
2	Central African Republic	Mr Evariste Benguenido	benguenidoeveriste@yahoo.fr
3	Chad	Mr Djergo Gaya	djergog@yahoo.fr
4	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mr Augustin Tagisabo Ibiliabo	aguytagis@gmail.com
5	Congo	Ms Gaëlla-Bentricia Bitsoumani-Ngouaya	nbentricia@gmail.com nbentricia1@gmail.com
6	Gabon	Mr Ghislain Nkombe	claudedatia@gmail.com
7	São Tomé and Príncipe	Mr Cosme Manuel Dias	cosmemmanuel@hotmail.com
8	RSMC Dakar (Senegal)	Mr Papa Ngor Ndiaye	papangor.ndiaye@anacim.sn
9	WMC Exeter	Ms Catherine Moore	catherine.moore@metoffice.gov.uk
10	WMC Toulouse	To be determined	
11	WMC ECMWF	Mr Matthieu Chevallier	matthieu.chevallier@ecmwf.int
12	WMC Montreal	Mr André Giguère	andre.giguere@ec.gc.ca
13	WMC Washington	Dr William Bolhofer	william.bolhofer@noaa.gov

**SEVERE WEATHER FORECASTING PROGRAMME (SWFP))
REGIONAL SUBPROGRAMME FOR CENTRAL AFRICA**

DESIGNATION FORM

Note: The nominated national SWFP focal point should preferably be head of the forecasting office or a senior forecaster in your Service

The Permanent Representative of _____ with WMO designates the following expert to serve as national SWFP focal point:

Mr/Ms/Dr:

Family name:

First name(s):

Date of birth:

Present position and responsibilities:

Work address:

Telephone:

Fax:

Mobile phone:

Email address:

Education/Qualification:

Experience:

Language skills: French (Yes/No):

English (Yes/No):

Date:

Signature of Permanent Representative: _____

Name of Permanent Representative:

Please complete and submit this form by email to Ata Hussain (ahussain@wmo.int) at the WMO Secretariat at your earliest convenience, but preferably **by 25 August 2025**.
