



Our ref.: 6433174/2025/S/RCP

19 September 2025

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Invitation to the South-West Indian Ocean Regional Climate Centre-
Network Implementation Planning Meeting, from 5 to 7 November 2025, in
Maputo, Mozambique

Action required: Nomination of participant to the above-mentioned meeting at your earliest
convenience, but no later than **22 September 2025**

Dear Sir/Madam,

There is increasing interest among Member countries in the South-West Indian Ocean (SWIO) region to strengthen regional collaboration in the provision of climate services. The countries would undoubtedly benefit from regional services and products provided by a Regional Climate Centre or an RCC network, which will facilitate sharing knowledge, tools and technical capacities, enabling Members to deliver high-quality, tailored climate products that address user-specific needs.

The establishment of a WMO Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for the SWIO region has been progressing since the virtual Scoping Workshop on the implementation of an RCC for the SWIO region (15–17 March 2022), which was preceded by a WMO Survey. Several countries have expressed interest in contributing to this effort, and an Implementation Plan has been drafted based on the findings of the survey and the workshop. It proposes a provisional structure of SWIO RCC-Network aligned with functional responsibilities, institutional capabilities, and regional priorities. In addition to the core RCC functions, several priority activities have been identified to address specific regional requirements.

To advance this initiative, WMO proposes to organize a SWIO RCC-Network Implementation Planning Meeting from 5 to 7 November 2025, in Maputo, Mozambique, hosted by the Mozambique National Meteorology Institute (INAM). More details about the meeting are provided in the Concept Note attached as an [annex](#) to this letter.

I am pleased to invite you to take part in the aforementioned meeting, or to designate an expert that would be mandated to represent your Service in this important event. I would appreciate if you could confirm the name of the national participant at your earliest convenience, but preferably **not later than 22 September 2025**, to Ms Sarah Diouf (Sdiouf@wmo.int).

It would be helpful if internal resources could be used to fully or partially support the participation of your nominee. However, if required, WMO will consider providing financial support, upon request, within the limited resources available.

To: Permanent Representatives of Comoros, France, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania with WMO (limited distribution)

cc: Hydrological Advisers

Regarding insurance coverage for non-staff members, may I draw your attention to the following:

Non-staff members of WMO who are authorized to travel at the Organization's expense and/or who are receiving a DSA from WMO must ensure they are fully responsible for expenses incurred in the event of death, illness or injury during official travel and attendance at meetings on behalf of the Organization. They are, therefore, fully responsible for arranging life, health, and accident, as well as any other forms of insurance with an adequate level of coverage for the duration of such meetings and events.

WMO liability is limited to the performance of services or attendance at a meeting on behalf of the Organization, is covered by an injury and illness benefit insurance which provides limited coverage for medical, emergency, and supplementary official travel expenses.

The agenda of the meeting, as well as the logistical details will be provided to the participants in due course. For further information, please contact Mr Wilfran Moufouma Okia (wmokia@wmo.int), Chief, Regional Climate Prediction Services (RCP) Division and Ms Anahit Hovsepyan (ahovsepyan@wmo.int), Scientific Officer, RCP.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support to the WMO activities and look forward to your valuable contribution to the meeting.

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

South-West Indian Ocean Regional Climate Centre- Network Implementation Planning Meeting

Concept Note

Dates: 5–7 November 2025

Venue: Maputo, Mozambique

Background

The South-West Indian Ocean (SWIO) region is highly vulnerable to climate variability and change. Island States and coastal African countries in the region frequently face extreme weather and climate events, such as intense precipitation, drought, floods and tropical cyclones. In light of these risks, there is growing interest among WMO Member countries in the SWIO region to strengthen regional collaboration in the delivery of climate services in support of climate adaptation and risk management. Significant efforts have been undertaken to help communities address these challenges, notably through the implementation of initiatives, such as the Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) programme and the establishment of the South-West Indian Ocean Climate Outlook Forum.

To pursue these efforts in building resilience, the seventeenth session of the WMO Regional Association I (RA I) (Africa) adopted [Resolution 6 \(RA I-17\)](#) and [Decision 2 \(RA I-17\)](#). Resolution 6 (RA I-17) endorses a regional approach for the Climate Services Information System implementation with a subregional focus built around seven geographic domains, including the SWIO region, while Decision 2 (RA I-17) invites Members in the SWIO region to explore the potential for a Regional Climate Centre (RCC) arrangement.

As a first step in this process, a [survey](#) was conducted to assess the needs, capacities and willingness of institutions to lead or contribute to RCC functions. Given the number of interested countries and diversity of capacities, an RCC-Network approach has been identified as the most appropriate organizational model for the SWIO region.

The SWIO RCC-Network will aim to foster effective collaboration among National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the region. Through shared responsibilities and pooled expertise, it will support the production and delivery of the full suite of climate services, including climate data, monitoring, prediction and capacity development. It will also address specific regional challenges and priorities, such as tropical cyclone prediction, marine climate services and climate change issues.

The [Scoping Workshop on the Implementation of a WMO RCC-Network for the South-West Indian Ocean Region](#) was held virtually in March 2022 preceded by a WMO survey, to explore institutional interest and technical capacities in the region for the establishment of an RCC. Based on the workshop findings and survey outcomes, a draft implementation plan has been developed. The plan outlines a proposed functional structure for the SWIO RCC-Network, incorporating not only mandatory RCC functions but also regionally defined priorities, tailored to the specific context and operational realities of the SWIO region.

SWIO RCC-Network Implementation Planning Meeting

To advance the implementation of the SWIO RCC-Network, WMO, as part of Activity 2.2 under the ClimSA programme, is organizing the SWIO RCC-Network Implementation Planning Meeting, from 5 to 7 November 2025, in Maputo, Mozambique.

This meeting aims to define institutional contributions, agree on the product and service portfolio and discuss organizational structure and coordination arrangements. It will also serve as a preparatory step towards the demonstration phase of the SWIO RCC-Network.

Objectives and expected outcomes

The primary objectives of the meeting are to:

- Review and agree on the implementation plan of the SWIO RCC-Network
- Reach agreement on the portfolio of products and services to be provided by the Network (variables, areal coverage, frequency of issuance, methodology, spatial and temporal resolution, etc.), including tailored and region-specific products and services beyond RCC mandatory functions
- Discuss organizational arrangement by clarifying node leads and consortium members, their roles and responsibilities and overall coordination of the Network, particularly throughout the demonstration phase
- Identify training and capacity-development needs and opportunities
- Define timelines and next steps towards the demonstration phase

The expected outcomes of the meeting include:

- Finalization of the SWIO RCC-Network structure, including node configuration and consortium members
- A preliminary service and product portfolio tailored to the region's priorities
- Agreement on coordination arrangements
- A roadmap outlining the timeline, milestones and actions needed for initiating the demonstration phase
- Designation of focal points for each node, including the node leads and consortium members (if any)

Participants

The meeting will bring together representatives from WMO Members in the SWIO region (Comoros, France, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania), representatives of the Indian Ocean Commission, representatives of neighbouring RCCs, subject matter experts (SME), member(s) of the Expert Team on Climate Services Information System for Decision Support (ET-CIDS), and relevant WMO Secretariat staff.
