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24 November 2022

Subject: Update on the WMO-GCF Technical Advisory Services for Climate Science Information and Hydro-meteorology Systems and Services Support

Action required: Make use of the Climate Science Information for Climate Action resources for climate services and related project proposals

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the Technical Advisory Services for Climate Science Information and Hydro-meteorology Systems and Services Support jointly provided by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Building on the successes and lessons learned from the first phase of the expert services agreement on Enhancing the Climate Science Basis of the Climate Rationale of GCF Funded Activities (2018–2021) launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland (COP26), the WMO and GCF have entered a follow-on collaboration now referred to as *Developing the Climate Science Information for Climate Action* (WMO-No. 1287).

In July 2022, the GCF Board at its thirty-third Session adopted Decision 19 (GCF B.33/19) recognizing the results of the WMO-GCF collaboration and acknowledging the importance of maintaining the suite of methods, tools and technical resources developed under the pilot phase that is needed to identify and select climate science information for climate actions and support effective investments in hydrometeorological development. The GCF B.33/19 Decision recognizes the importance of systematically strengthening the capacity of all stakeholders to access, synthesize, and incorporate relevant climate science information into climate action policies, plans and investments, as well as enhancing the hydrological and meteorological systems and associated climate information services for low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

The GCF B.33/19 echoes [Resolution 1 \(EC-75\)](#) – Global Framework for Climate Services strategy and measures for enhanced visibility, effectiveness and implementation, which acknowledges the importance of science-based adaptation and mitigation actions addressing Member climate-related priorities. The WMO-GCF initiative is identified as one of the key building blocks for enhancing the next generation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), synthesizing the climate science information on impacts and needs and creating a more conducive policy and financing environment for further support to WMO Members.

On this basis, WMO and GCF are partnering to provide the global community with access to new climate information, tools, and guidance to develop the scientific basis for climate action decisions. Access to these products will help countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), to identify and select the most effective climate actions to overcome the challenges of climate change, contributing to a transformational climate action paradigm shift, country level decision-making and

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

Cc: Hydrological Advisers
WMO Regional Offices in RA I, II, III, IV, V and VI
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mobilization of climate finance, ensuring adaptation benefits for vulnerable populations, communities, different stakeholders, and sectors.

During the second phase, which started in 2022, the WMO-GCF collaboration will further unleash the climate impact potential of adaptation proposals by providing well-evidenced climate science analyses showing how climate-smart interventions can be an effective response to the risk of specific climate change hazards.

The proposed programme of work will engage a wide spectrum of stakeholders, with a particular focus: on Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs); GCF Accredited entities (AEs) (particularly Direct Access Entities (DAEs)), National Designated Authorities (NDAs), the Independent Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), and the GCF Secretariat; other climate finance sources; United Nations (UN) organizations and other technical and development partners.

Activities under this programme aim to enable technical advisory services support to be provided on a widespread basis encompassing various climate-sensitive sectors, including Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), water, agriculture and food security, health, energy, ocean, marine and coasts, amongst others, which are affected by extreme and high-impact weather and climate events, contributing to a cross-sectoral climate impact and risk assessment.

Furthermore, capacity development will be enhanced through a systematic, complementary, and progressive training approach targeting groups of countries on a regional or subregional basis where assistance is tailored to address specific country training needs in preparation for the development of climate science information for national policy documents and investment proposals. For the delivery of this component, WMO will organize hands-on regional, subregional, and national workshops addressing complementary training areas. The training lays the foundation for a greater degree of competency at the country level, a wider network of available expertise, and a larger number of contributing institutions that can support a broad range of training at different levels.

By involving WMO experts and its Members from the earliest stages of project proposal preparation and continuing through proposal design and implementation, these measures would ensure that investments, plans and policies are based on the best available science, according to international standards and compliance with globally agreed requirements, and ensure WMO involvement in strengthening the necessary hydro-met systems and services for Early Warning Systems. WMO involvement in the project development cycle will also allow WMO, as a standard-setting organization, to certify national capacity improvements through the application of WMO ISO 9001-based Quality Management System (QMS) procedures.

A series of activities have already taken place in the last quarter of 2022 and are planned for next year:

- A [Regional Training Workshop](#) (in person) on Climate Science Information for Climate Action, South Africa, 12–16 September 2022. A total of 31 participants, including WMO staff from the Secretariat and the Regional Office for Africa, participated in the event. The workshop was attended by four countries in the region: Eswatini, Malawi, South Africa and Zambia. In addition, international partner organizations (e.g. GCF, UNFCCC, UNICEF, UNDRR, FAO, GWP) with experience in climate data and services provision and the development of GCF-funded activities, as well as scientific institutions such as the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) – which hosts the Climate Information Platform (CIP) – and the University of New South Wales (UNSW) of Australia, contributed to the delivery of the workshop.
- The [First Global Forum on Climate Science Information](#) – Data, Tools and Methods – 27-29 September 2022 (hybrid) was organized to discuss the climate information

required for adaptation and resilience projects, to evaluate and promote guidance on its use, to identify gaps, and to promote and coordinate authoritative information. The Forum gathered more than 200 international, regional, national and sectoral expert users of climate science information, including NMHSs, the WMO technical community, research/academic and international organizations and information users, decision-makers, development partners, private investors, and non-governmental organizations.

- A side event is being planned during the UN Climate Change Conference COP27, in Sharm El-Sheikh, on Wednesday, 9 November 2022 from 13h00–14h00 at the IPCC-WMO-MERI¹-Egypt Pavilion. This side event will inform on the outcomes and recommendations of the first WMO-GCF Global Forum on Climate Science Information.
- Through WMO engagement with the UNFCCC/UN4NAPs partnership, ongoing tailored and specific technical assistance to LDCs or SIDS is being provided to support the development of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- A group of volunteers can be brought together under the umbrella of the WMO-GCF initiative on Climate Science Information for Climate Action to contribute to the Second Global Forum in late 2023 as well as provide inputs to scientific or technical knowledge products based on the recommendations from the first Forum.
- Cooperation with other climate finance mechanisms and initiatives such as the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative will enhance the opportunity for implementation of the initiative and facilitate engagement with additional development partners and specialized technical agencies, promoting synergies with major climate policy and financing support mechanisms.

Noting the broad interests of countries, and the high-level political support for this work, as demonstrated through the recent GCF Board decision, WMO will continue to further enhance global awareness, technical support, and capacity development through this initiative.

For any questions, inquiries, or requests for technical assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the WMO Project Support Team on Climate Science Information for Climate Action at: climatescience@wmo.int.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of this highly important initiative.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General

¹Melimoyu Ecosystem Research Institute (MERI).