



Our ref.: CLW/CLPA/WCAS/RCC-RA I-ACMAD

GENEVA, 22 November 2011

Subject: WMO Regional Climate Centres (RCC) in Regional Association I (RA I), and start of demonstration phase at the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my pleasure to inform you that, in accordance with the decisions during the fifteenth session of RA I (November 2010, Marrakech), the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) has formally expressed its intention to be designated as a multifunctional WMO Regional Climate Centre (RCC) in RA I.

On 31 March 2011, ACMAD started its RCC demonstration phase, with its domain of responsibility covering the entire RA I. A brief portrait of ACMAD as well as its current and future RCC services related to the mandatory functions of long-range forecasting, climate monitoring, data services and training is available on the WMO Website at: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/RCCs.html>. Its relevant products and services can be accessed through: <http://www.acmad.ne>. The focal points for RCC communication at ACMAD are:

Mr Mohamed Kadi (E-mail: kadi_metz@yahoo.com; Mohamed_kadi@acmad.org)
Mr André Kamga Foamouhoue (E-mail: akamgaf@yahoo.com)
Mr John Mwikya (E-mail: johnmwicha@yahoo.com; john@acmad.org)

ACMAD is also expected to closely liaise with upcoming subregional RCCs in RA I to optimize the RA I RCC product and service suite. National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) are encouraged to fully exploit these products and services in order to provide improved climate services at the national level.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members of Regional Association I (AFR-762)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives)
Director, IGAD (Inter-Governmental Authority on Development))
Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC))
Director, Southern African Development Community Climate)
Services Centre (SADC-CSC))
Director, AGRHYMET Regional Center) (for information)
President, Regional Association I)
President, Commission for Climatology)
President, Commission for Basic Systems)
Chair, Joint CCI/CBS Expert Team on Regional Climate Centres)
Chair, RA I Working Group on Climate Matters)

Specifically, I would like to invite all RA I NMHSs to actively participate in ACMAD's RCC demonstration phase by:

- (i) Reviewing national capabilities to access, process and tailor ACMAD's RCC products to support national climate services;
- (ii) Applying ACMAD's RCC products and services to the extent possible;
- (iii) Actively supporting the generation of RCC products and services by sharing national data, products and expertise; and
- (iv) Providing feedback in order to help ACMAD further refine its RCC products and services.

The implementation of a successful demonstration phase is an important step for the formal designation of WMO RCCs and requires the WMO RCC candidates to work closely with the Commission for Climatology (CCI), Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) and the respective Regional Association. In RA I, the Regional Working Group on Climate Matters (RA I WGCM) is mandated to assist the president of RA I on matters related to RCC implementation.

WMO RCCs are recognized to serve as essential elements of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). I wish the Region a successful conduct of the RCC demonstration phase for the benefit of the participating Member countries.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'J' followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line extending to the right.

(J. Lengoasa)
for the Secretary-General