

# BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT BASED ON CLIMATE KNOWLEDGE IN AFRICA



DRAFT PROGRAMME



Lord Eroll Hotel, Runda\*

Nairobi, Kenya

Monday, 13 February, 2012





## Background

The conclusions of the 4th Assessment Report of IPCC (2007) revealed the African continent as one of hardest hit by climate change. According to the report, extreme events like droughts, floods, storms are increasing in frequency and intensity. The severity of disasters and climate change consequences will certainly contribute to wipe out the hard-earned social and economic progress by African countries.

Climate change and the severe variability will bring new challenges, which communities with available indigenous knowledge may no longer be able to apply these solutions to the changing environment and stresses. For this reason, the involvement of different disciplines to design a program of action centered on the beneficiaries' needs and involvement; i.e. the vulnerable communities at the frontlines most at risk from climate-related hazards.

Thus disaster risk managers will be required to help adapt traditional coping strategies with the dynamic climatic context (FAO, 2008; Mitchell et al, 2010). There is an urgent need to build bridges between climate institutions and disaster managers in order to benefit vulnerable communities of social progress and sustainable development.

Probable increases in the severity of disasters, combined with high vulnerability in the context of climate change, could contribute to discounting the social and economic progress made after long years of sacrifices by African countries in recent decades. These losses due to climate shocks could further contribute to political volatility in "fragile" countries, as may be attributed to what can be seen in the drought in Northern Kenya and in Southern Sudan. This case has highlighted the relationship between drought and the migration of pastoral and agricultural communities resulting in an increase in pressure on the carrying capacity of the land and access to basic food and shelter – and the consequent impacts on human security and political stability.

The remarkable progress made in climate science and technologies allow us today, to anticipate future events, through early warnings and seasonal forecasts. Disaster Risk Managers have used this information to anticipate climate related hazards and thus improved mitigation, preparedness for response and recovery programs. Experience has shown that a key difficulty in integrating climate science into disaster risk reduction policy and operations has been the lack of organised, pro-active and sustained partnerships.

Dialogue between climate scientists and disaster risk reduction managers is a relatively new field subject.

Nevertheless, DRR is increasingly forward looking - as shown as the emerging and evolving priority for action to reduce underlying risk factors within the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, increasing signs of convergence relate to the common ground of joint mainstreaming into development sectors, and through the adoption of the 'no regrets' options in DRR.

The fact remains that African people are still suffering and much investment are lost even if sometimes reliable climate information exists; little to no action is taken to concretely reduce climate- related risks. In addition, there remains an enormous gap between scientists and disaster risk managers. This may be partly attributed to poor communication of the science, a historical emphasis on preparedness and response rather than risk reduction in the field of disaster risk management, as well as the nature of forums of dissemination of climate change science and disciplinary sectoralism.

Africa is facing, more than other continents, the consequences of a changing climate, with rising risks and uncertainties. It is the right time to start filling the gap and build bridges between climate institutions and disaster managers, to the benefit of communities at risk, and to advance social progress and sustainable development.

## About the partnership

The partnership will establish dialogue between climate scientists and disaster risk managers which is durable and action-oriented in order to provide relevant climate services to be translated by disasters risk managers into risk reduction measures, community centered EWS, local preparedness, response and recovery.

### Expected outputs:

- ⇒ This regional initiative will be closely linked to the Global Framework for Climate Services and other related initiatives conducted at global and regional level.
- ⇒ Lessons will be learned from the World Metrological Organization (WMO) program, Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP) or the ACMAD project African Early Warning and Advisory Climate Services (AEWACS).
- ⇒ The African Partnership on climate services and DRR will focus on local action and will contribute to shape on-going global initiatives. The activities will look for the support of the ClimDevAfrica program.
- ⇒ Provide an opportunity to support the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action in countries.
- ⇒ The dialogue between the various institutions involved in the disaster risk management will strengthen the links between technical and scientific agencies and disasters managers.
- ⇒ The private sector and insurance regional organizations will be involved as part of this partnership as there is more interest and potential

# Building a Partnership for Disaster Risk Management based on Climate Knowledge in Africa

## Programme

Monday, 13 February 2012

08.00 – 09.00

**Registration of Participants**

09.00 – 9.45.

**Opening Session**

Welcome Remarks by Kenya Met. Services

Welcome Remarks by African Union Commission (AUC), Haile Abebe

Welcome Remarks by ACMAD, Alhassan Diallo

Welcome Remarks by UNISDR, Ms. Helena Molin-Valdes (tbc)

9.45 – 10.00

**Chairperson and Facilitator: AU and EAC**

**Secretariat: UNISDR**

Global perspective for climate services and disaster risk reduction - Simon Mason

Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), support to regional programmes, WMO

Key messages from IPCC SREX –Implications for climate services in Africa - Maarten van Aalst, IPCC/RC  
RC Climate Centre

10.00 – 10.15

**Tea Break**

10.30 – 01.00pm

Climate services for sustainable development - ACMAD, Alhassan Diallo

Climate science-based DRR/CCA programmes- UNISDR, Pedro Basabe

Climate and DRR, sub-regional perspective - ICPAC, Laban Ogallo

Climate change adaptation, financial mechanisms - African Development Bank, Ken B. Johm

Presentation on climate solutions—Insurance Company (tbc)

**Discussion**

**Summary of the discussion**

**Chairperson, Julius Kabubi**

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF UNISDR/ACMAD PARTNERSHIP**

**Question and answer to UNISDR, ACMAD and partners**

01.15pm

**COCKTAIL - All participants and journalists are invited**

## About ACMAD

The African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), with a continental scope, aims at contributing to the sustainable development of the African socio-economic sectors through the use of information related to weather, climate and environment as resources for development, and focusing on intervention areas such as food security, farming and livestock water resources, health, environmental protection, civil security and renewable energy sources. For this purpose, ACMAD develops climatological and environmental products for the benefit of regional, sub regional and national activities, and is engaged in global products evaluation, environmental applications for development, technology transfer, capacity building and strengthening, as well as research in climate and tropical meteorology.

ACMAD disseminates products on a regular basis to African countries sub regional and regional institutions for a continent-wide weather and climate watch, most of which in support of disaster risk reduction and management, including early warning information, short and long-term / seasonal forecasts, special weather event bulletin, tailored products to assist humanitarian action as well as climate analyses and outlooks most.

ACMAD has established a strong and diversified partnership with many global, regional and national institutions, including public, private and civil society.



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## About UNISDR Africa

The secretariat to the Strategy, UNISDR, serves as the focal point in the UN system for the coordination of disaster reduction and works towards integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) into sound and equitable development, environmental protection and humanitarian action. The motto for UNISDR is “to connect and convince”.

The ISDR system comprises partnerships through which governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, international financial institutions, technical institutions and networks, civil society organisations and the private sector interact and share information on risk reduction programmes and activities.

The main African framework for DRR is the Africa Regional Strategy for DRR, adopted at the 10th meeting of the Africa Ministerial Conference of the Environment (AMCEN) in 2004.

With UNISDR support, the African Union Commission (AUC) then formulated and endorsed the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the African Strategy for DRR (2005-2010) at the First African Ministerial Conference on DRR in Addis Ababa in 2005.

At the Second Ministerial Conference on DRR, which was jointly organized by AUC and UNISDR Africa, a substantive revision reflecting current gaps, including integration of climate change concerns into DRR, and extending the time-frame to 2015, thus aligning it with the HFA, was adopted along with a Ministerial Declaration.

Following the recommendations of the Declaration, AUC in collaboration with UNISDR reconstituted the African Working Group on DRR (AWGDRR) in order to guide and coordinate the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy and its Programme of Action.

The Africa Working Group on DRR first constituted in 2005, has subsequently been reconstituted and held its inaugural meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, in March 2011.



United Nations

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