

Press release

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DROUGHT AND FLOOD RISK PROFILES TO BE DEVELOPED FOR 16 COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

GENEVA, 29 February 2018 – The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction has engaged CIMA Research Foundation to generate risk profiles on flood and drought in 16 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The countries that will be involved in the risk assessment are: Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Botswana, Zambia, Namibia, Gambia, Gabon, Cameroon, Ghana, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Kenya.

Dr. Roberto Rudari, CIMA project manager, said: "Our work will be to quantify the impact of alluvial and drought events, both for the current climate and in terms of climate change. We will apply a holistic approach in the assessments, taking into account not only the effects on the population but also the economic impact.

"In addition, we will evaluate the impact on infrastructure such as transport, schools, health facilities, public buildings and energy production. These forecasts will be made with a short-term future horizon projecting them to 2050. The results will be shared with the institutions that have the responsibility for defining disaster risk reduction strategies in these countries and will be of crucial importance for the improvement of sustainable development policies."

Mr. Robert Glasser, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, welcoming the agreement, said: "The key element of the CIMA and UNISDR partnership will be to better inform the national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction in the beneficiary countries. Floods and drought affect more people than any other natural hazards, particularly in Africa where millions of lives are disrupted every year by such events which impede progress on eradicating poverty and hunger. The development of these strategies is a key target of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the global plan for reducing disaster losses."

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About UNISDR: UNISDR is the UN office dedicated to disaster risk reduction. It is led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and supports implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 which seeks "the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses, in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries."

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