

WMO's SUBMISSION FOR AWG-LCA

COP14

POZNAN, POLAND

1 In response to Bali Action Plan, paragraph 1 C (ii):

Risk management and risk reduction Strategies:

1.1 An international climate prediction and information service led by WMO with partners in other UN organizations, regions and nations will fill information gaps at global, national, and local scales. Research, observation, prediction and service delivery constitute the nodes of such a framework. Accelerated weather and climate research is required at both national and international levels in order to develop better tools for adaptation through climate observations and climate change detection, advance regional modelling for adaptation planning, and improve understanding of future patterns of sector-specific climate risks. As an example, high-resolution climate models and other sophisticated downscaling strategies will help reduce uncertainties and enable more effective adaptation policies.

1.2 It is important for Parties to work towards local ownership of capacities to package and interpret climate information and its impending impacts both by the climate providers and users for risk management and sustainable development purposes. In this sense, access to locally relevant climate data and information will be crucially important.

1.3 Good observations acquired over extended periods make possible an understanding of both the frequency of occurrence of significant extreme events and also the identification of climate trends in such extremes and in average conditions. Observational records are essential to draw reliable information for planning needs in the current climate as well as taking proactive measures under reliable future climate projections.

1.4 As a step to further enhance risk management, Parties should seek opportunities and understand constraints in integrating climate risks and uncertainties into the mainstreams of decision-making where in real-world contexts there is sensitivity to climate variability and change. WMO recommends that collaborative mechanisms be developed to facilitate needs and requirements driven activities in climate-related risk management, and that they be used to improve the quality of climate-related risk management to the benefit of all, most especially developing countries and LDCs which lack required human and infrastructural resources to take up such activities.

These mechanisms could promote:

- Evaluation of current climate-related risk management in all relevant sectors
- Better assessments of the value of climate-related risk management
- Establishment of data sets necessary to inform decision making
- Research to improve climate-related risk management
- Development of decision-support tools
- Capacity building in climate-related risk management
- On-going evaluation of outcomes of risk management activities
- The use of suitable financial mechanisms in support of climate-related risk management.

1.5 Climate information and predictions could be used much more effectively in the development of socio-economic policies. Recognizing that climate information that is available for adaptation and mitigation planning is often not used in an optimal manner due to the lack of information services

that connect users to the experts generating the information, Parties should be encouraged to ensure access to relevant climate information. At the same time, Parties recognize that National Hydrometeorological Services (NMHSs) and their national partners need to better understand user needs and tailor climate information products to meet societal requirements. For this purpose, it is imperative to Parties:

- To propose a regional mitigation and adaptation frameworks and to identify win-win options for the socioeconomic sectors
- To recommend policy and financial innovations to enable smooth implementation of the regional frameworks
- To explore appropriate options for strengthening information exchange on climate change impacts, especially for the countries that are not able to generate climate information and products.

1.6 Parties should ensure mainstreaming technical capacities such as hydro-meteorological risk assessment and early warning systems in the national disaster risk management plans, legislations and development planning.

1.7 For improved decision making for climate change adaptation and risk management, a mechanism needs to be developed for users to share experiences on how they incorporate climate information and model predictions in their planning processes. Methodologies for translating climate information into social and economic benefits need to be improved and used more widely in the development of effective adaptation and mitigation strategies.

1.8 The scientific and policy communities need continuous dialogue, translation of information for users and vice-versa to understand the possible range of changes. It is proposed that in the face of uncertainty, governments should introduce regulatory practices and adopt flexible policies for climate risk management and adaptation.

2 In response to Bali Action Plan, paragraph 1 (d) (iii):

Cooperation on research and development of current, new and innovative technology, including win-win solutions

2.1 There is a general consensus within the climate research community that any change in the mean climate is likely to feature significant changes in frequency or severity of extreme climate events and that this would have profound impacts on nature and society. It is thus very important to analyze and model extreme events.

Parties support the following research activities:

- To summarize, compare and assess definition(s) of climate extremes and develop a common language amongst researchers and end users;
- To design an inter-comparison framework through which both observations, climate model representations of extremes and projections of climate can be assessed and by which changes in climate extremes can be better evaluated;
- To accelerate progress on the prediction of climate extremes with a focus on developing capabilities and products which facilitate practical applications for stakeholders and regions around the world;
- To assess the observational and dataset framework for study of global extremes;
- To determine how extremes are changing and varying and why (including their relationship to mean variables, physical factors, shape of pdf etc).

3 In response to Bali Action Plan, paragraph 1 (a):

A shared vision for long-term cooperative action:

3.1 A global framework for adaptation practices will better provide support to finer scale networks dealing with variables critical for adaptation. In particular, support is needed for regional and national meteorological networks for obtaining precipitation, temperature, humidity, wind speed, and other adaptation-related data at high frequency. These data form the basis of the description of prevailing climate and the record of past climate.

3.2 As a basis for long-term cooperative action, WMO will implement an Initiative to Support Climate Change Adaptation. The initiative will integrate, coordinate and enhance the provision of user-oriented climate information, products, advisories and services to support national and regional climate risk assessment, climate adaptation planning and implementation practices for sustainable development based on current capabilities.

3.3. WMO along with other UN agencies is organizing The World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3). As an expected outcome the Conference will establish an international framework to guide the development of climate services, in order to link science based climate predictions and information with climate risk management and adaptation to climate variability and change throughout the world and thereby contribute to the UNFCCC COP15. The WCC-3 will also be the platform to make a significant contribution to the collective efforts of the entire UN System and partners in advancing knowledge and assisting governments and societies in combating climate variability and climate change.

3.4 WMO supports UN System-wide Response to the Challenge of Climate Change. An inclusive and coherent approach to climate change will enable the UN system to provide support for the negotiations of an international agreement on focus areas of Adaptation, Technology Transfer, Capacity Building and Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) as well as Mitigation/Finance. WMO and UNESCO convene a forum entitled: "*Science, assessment, monitoring and early warning*" for coordination, integration and dissemination of the climate change knowledge developed by the UN system organizations for access and use by the public, policy and decision-makers world-wide, in particular in support of the UNFCCC process and IPCC 5th Assessment Report.

3.5 For a free and unrestricted exchange of data and information for adaptation there should be a high-level political impetus to improve exchange of data. It is widely agreed that there is a need for free access to data under the Convention and Parties recognize the need to clearly identify the costs of 'free exchange' of data, to give providers arguments in raising funds.