

OECD-PCCB NETWORK WORKSHOP SERIES WORKSHOP #2

Climate services and data: a capacity development agenda 28th June 2022

Accessing climate-related services and to gather climate data and information can improve countries' resilience to climate change. According to a recent OECD report, capacity development to access such services and data is a key enabler for climate action and ambition (see [here](#)). Better hydro-meteorological services and data, early warning and emergency management systems reduce physical damage and economic losses from climate-related hazards — for example, shuttering windows ahead of a hurricane can reduce damage by up to 50 percent, and the benefits of providing universal access to early warning systems globally have been found to largely exceed costs, by factors of at least 4 to 10.¹ Climate services can support a range of economic sectors that are climate-sensitive, including in agriculture, fisheries or energy.

However, the use of climate data for research and applications in developing countries is still limited. For example, in Durban, South Africa, lack of information on the combined effects of sea storms and sea-level rise has hampered decision making at the municipal level on these issues.² Poor access to climate information also explains why farmers, herders or fisherfolks are unable to respond to climate change in Ghana, Guatemala, Peru, the Philippines or Senegal.³

Conversely, several studies show that farmers in sub-Saharan Africa with access to timely and accurate climate-related information and who engage in community-based monitoring are more likely to adjust their behaviour – a pattern that is also observed in South Asia or the Pacific SIDS.⁴ Research also shows that awareness of, access to and the potential usability of climate information and services are highest in communities where prior interventions and capacity development have taken place and when capacity development interventions build upon data collected by locals themselves.⁵ In Caracas, Venezuela, for instance, 60% of the population lives in slums, 90% of which are inhabitants of mountainous terrain prone to rainfall-induced mass movements. Engaging the inhabitants in data collection raised their awareness about safe and risk-prone places and discouraged uncontrolled or illegal occupation of land.

These examples show that developing capacities to improve climate services may be one fundamental area to achieve transformational outcomes in partner countries. However, there are many barriers explaining why developing countries have poor availability of and access to quality climate services and data. Weather stations are sparse in African countries, and their number has been declining. When available, understanding and using climate data so it can support end users is often challenging due to a range of barriers (e.g. outdated or no national data policy, low financial investment, including for maintenance of equipment, limited dissemination capacity and tools, high access costs, limited or no collaboration with communication and mobile phone companies).⁶

The second workshop in the OECD-PCCB Network series, in collaboration with the Columbia Climate School's International Research Institute for Climate and Society, proposes a technical panel discussion looking at the current bottlenecks that partner countries experience in relation to climate

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services and data. Following this, a number of concrete and practical solutions that have proved successful in supporting partner countries in this regard will be presented via lightning talk format with a chance for the audience to interact with each speaker following their presentation. A short plenary discussion will draw conclusions from these discussions.

OECD-PCCB Network Workshop on Capacity Development for Climate Action and Ambition Workshop 2 on Climate Services and Data Virtual Event [28th June 2022]	
Time (CET)	
13:30 - 14:00 (30')	Zoom line open for early connection: here
Session 1: Introduction, context, and proposal	
14:00 - 14:05 (5')	Welcome and opening remarks: brief introduction to the session's agenda and objectives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Crispin d'Auvergne, Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) Member
Session 2: Panel discussion on lifting barriers to effective climate data and services in partner countries through capacity development	
14:05 - 15:05 (60')	<p>Donors have dedicated substantial resources to supporting countries have better climate data and related services. Such work has taken a broad range of perspectives, from supporting the deployment and operation of meteorological stations, to training meteorological agency officials, developing and tailoring climate data to end-user needs, including across a range of sectors, such as agriculture, livestock or fisheries. Other donors have expanded their own climate-related programmes to support vulnerable countries, such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Notwithstanding these efforts, effective or sustainable results are still elusive in many cases. Against this background, this panel discussion will look at the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What are the main capacity barriers that partner countries face today to gather and use climate data and to develop climate services?</i> • <i>How can donors support partner countries in their efforts to effectively access, develop and use climate data and services, and what is the role of capacity development here?</i> • <i>What positive experiences exist from where donors could draw inspiration and that could be scaled-up or replicated?</i>

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	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Jens Sedemund, Head of DAC ENVIRONET Secretariat, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr John Furlow, Director, International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia Climate School • Ms Cathy Krüger, Inter-regional advisor, PARIS21, OECD • Mr Amir Delju, Senior Scientific Officer, World Meteorological Organization • Ms Georgina Campbell Flatter, Executive Director, TomorrowNow
<p>Session 3: Lightning talks on capacity development solutions that enhance partner country climate services and data</p>	
<p>15:05 - 16:25 (80')</p>	<p>This session will be broken-up into three segments, with a first segment looking at concrete, effective solutions to develop the capacity of partner countries in the area of climate services. The second segment focuses on supporting countries with data for climate change. The third segment then focuses on specific solutions for SIDS. The interventions will be brief (max. 5 min) and will elaborate on a concrete capacity gap, the solution effectively tested and three key lessons or take-aways from the activity. After each segment, the floor will open for a discussion with the audience.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Mélody Braun, Senior Staff Associate, International Research Institute for Climate and Society, Columbia Climate School</p> <p>First segment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Katharina Lotzen, Advisor for climate risk management of the Making use of climate information for infrastructure planning (CSI) team, GIZ • Ms Shannon Degraaf, Advisor International Relations, Meteorological Service of Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada • Ms Beatriz Vaca Dominguez, Chief Operating Officer, Microinsurance Catastrophe Risk Organisation (MiCRO) <p>Second segment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Ronald Dianga, Kenya Country Manager, TomorrowNow • Mr Mathías Jara, Statistical Consultant, Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Paraguay • Ms Carmen Gonzalez Romero, Staff Associate and country manager for ACToday Latin America, International Research Institute for Climate and Society <p>Third segment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Christophe Buffet, Adapt'action, AFD and Ms Marie-Dominique Leroux, Deputy Director, Climatology and Studies Division, Météo-France • Mr Mxolisi Sibanda, Adviser Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat • Ms Jacqueline Spence-Hemmings, Climate Branch Head, Meteorological Service Division, Jamaica
<p>Session 4: Closing and next steps</p>	
<p>16:25 – 16:30 (5')</p>	<p>Workshop wrap-up and next steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Alejandro Kilpatrick, Manager of the Capacity-building subdivision, UNFCCC Secretariat

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- ¹ Hallegatte, S., J. Rentschler and J. Rozenberg (2020), *Adaptation Principles: A Guide for Designing Strategies for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience*, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34780>
- ² Ziervogel, G. et al. (2014), "Climate change impacts and adaptation in South Africa", *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, Vol. 5/5, pp. 605-620, <https://wires.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/wcc.295>
- ³ OECD (2020), *Common Ground between the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework: Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/3edc8d09-en>; Casado-Asensio, J., T. Kato and H. Shin (2021), "Lessons on engaging with the private sector to strengthen climate resilience in Guatemala, the Philippines and Senegal", *OECD Development Co-operation Working Papers*, No. 96, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/09b46b3f-en>.
- ⁴ Shackleton, S. et al. (2015), "Why is socially-just climate change adaptation in sub-Saharan Africa so challenging? A review of barriers identified from empirical cases", *WIREs Climate Change*, Vol. 6/3, pp. 321-344, <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.33>; DANIDA (2020), *Evaluation of Danish Support for Climate Change Adaptation in Developing Countries*, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Copenhagen; Casado-Asensio, J., T. Kato and H. Shin (2021), "Lessons on engaging with the private sector to strengthen climate resilience in Guatemala, the Philippines and Senegal", *OECD Development Co-operation Working Papers*, No. 96, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/09b46b3f-en>; Shakya, C. et al. (2019), "Building institutional capacity for enhancing resilience to climate change: An operational framework and insights from practice", *ACT: Action on Climate Today Learning Series*, Oxford Policy Management, IIED, <http://www.acclimatise.uk.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/GIP01916-OPM-Strengthening-institutions-Proof4-web.pdf>; McNamara, K. et al. (2020), "An assessment of community-based adaptation initiatives in the Pacific Islands", *Nature Climate Change*, Vol. 10, pp. 628-639, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-0813-1>
- ⁵ West, J., M. Daly and P. Yanda (2018), *Evaluating User Satisfaction with Climate Services in Tanzania 2014-2016: Summary Report for the Global Framework for Climate Services Adaptation Programme in Africa*, Center for International Climate Research, Oslo, <https://pub.cicero.oslo.no/cicero-xmlui/handle/11250/2500793>; Wymann von Dach, S. et al. (2018), "Leaving no one in mountains behind: Localizing the SDGs for resilience of mountain people and ecosystems", *Issue Brief on Sustainable Mountain Development*, Centre for Development and Environment and Mountain Research Initiative, Bern, <https://doi.org/10.7892/boris.120130>.
- ⁶ Dinku, T. et al. (2022), *The Climate Data Tool: Enhancing Climate Services Across Africa*, *Technology and Code*, <https://doi.org/10.3389/ftclim.2021.787519>

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