

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

WHAT THE FRAMEWORK WILL DO

Put simply, the Global Framework for Climate Services is a globally coordinated collective of the organizations that are already engaged in producing and using climate information and services. The aim in bringing these together through the Framework is to enable producers, researchers and user organizations to join forces to lift the quality and volume of climate services worldwide, and particularly for developing countries.

Central players in climate services are the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, which already collect and exchange climate data, undertake research, and generate climate information products. Through the Framework they will help develop protocols and standards for data exchange between themselves and other organizations as well as improve information products and service delivery. The Framework will systematically build capacity in these national organizations where needed.



UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran

The Framework will also foster stronger relationships between researchers, climate information providers and users, to improve techniques and help ensure that the right information is available to all sectors of society for day-to-day and longer-term planning.

ORIGIN OF THE FRAMEWORK

At the World Climate Conference-3, held in Geneva on 31 August - 4 September 2009, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Heads of Delegations of over 150 countries and 70 organizations unanimously decided to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services to better serve society's need for accurate and timely information on climate.

The Conference mandated the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization to set up a High-level Taskforce of independent advisors. An intergovernmental meeting on 11-12 January 2010 endorsed the Taskforce composed of 14 high-ranking personalities. The Taskforce completed its report outlining the components of the Framework and options for governance and submitted it for adoption to the World Meteorological Organization Congress in May 2011.

The Executive Council Session LXIII decided to set up an Executive Council Task Team to be in charge of supervising the drafting of a detailed implementation plan that will deliver precise building blocks on how the GFCS will be actually put in place as well as suggestions on the governance structure of the GFCS. An Extraordinary Congress will be held by the end of October 2012 to decide upon the adoption of these proposals.

WHY INVEST IN THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES?

Climate services enhance development opportunities and reduce vulnerability. Climate-sensitive developing countries stand to gain the most from better climate information but are often precisely where climate services are weakest. The Framework will give priority to capacity building in these countries.

Climate services are critical to preparing for climate change. Good management of climatic risks today is the foundation for managing the changed climatic risks of tomorrow. Adaptation, renewable energy, energy conservation and mitigation actions all depend on good climate information and climate services.

Climate services can improve the lives of billions of people. The widespread influence of climate and diverse uses of climate information across public policy and business decision making means that even small improvements in climate services can leverage enormous impacts, saving and improving lives.

The Framework has a unique and powerful mandate to strengthen and mobilize. All those with relevant interests - governments, expert organizations and user organizations - back the Framework as the means to strengthen existing capacities and achieve synergies and leverage in climate services.

COMPONENTS OF THE FRAMEWORK

- User Interface Platform — provide ways for climate service users and providers to interact and improve the effectiveness of the Framework and its climate services
- Climate Services Information System — produce and distribute climate data and information according to the needs of users and to agreed standards
- Observations and Monitoring – develop agreements and standards for generating necessary climate data.
- Research, Modeling and Prediction — harness science capabilities and results to meet the needs of climate services
- Capacity Building — support the systematic development of the institutions, infrastructure and human resources needed for effective climate services

PRINCIPLES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FRAMEWORK

- High priority for the needs of **climate-vulnerable developing countries**
- Primary focus is the **better access and use** of climate information by users
- Framework will address needs at three spatial scales: **global, regional and national**
- Climate services must be **operational and continuously updated**
- Climate information is primarily an **international public good** and governments will have a central role in the Framework
- Framework will encourage **global, free and open exchange** of climate-relevant data
- Framework will **facilitate and strengthen** - not duplicate
- The Framework will be built through **partnerships**

GOVERNANCE

The High-Level Task Force recommended that the governing mechanism for the Framework should be based in the United Nations and should be either (A) a new Intergovernmental Board whose members are Governments or (B) a Joint Board of relevant United Nations entities reporting through their existing governing bodies. In both cases an Executive Committee aided by a number of stakeholder committees would be formed to guide the different aspects of the Framework. To see the complete report, visit:

http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/downloads/HLT_book_full.pdf

The Congress decided to proceed with Option A, amended to reflect the agreement that the Intergovernmental Board of the Framework, will be accountable to the WMO Congress and that the management committee structures, that may be accountable to the Intergovernmental Board will be decided upon completion of the implementation plan.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The documents are being produced through a holistic process which seeks to include as many stakeholders as possible. For this purpose consultation meetings are being held in the five components of the framework to ensure discussion of key issues related to the production, availability and application of climate services in the four priority areas (agriculture, water, health and disaster risk reduction) to ensure that the Framework is a true reflection of the aspirations of stakeholders:

- User Interface Platform —
 - Agricultural, Food Security and Water sectors (September 2011, Rome)
 - Disaster Risk Reduction and Health Stakeholders (November 2011, Geneva)
- Climate Services Information System — (April 2011, Geneva)
- Observations and Monitoring –
 - 1st meeting for WMO and WMO cosponsored programs (August 2011, Geneva)
 - 2nd meeting addressing the user communities (in agriculture, Water, health, DRR) (December 2011, Geneva)
- Capacity Building —
 - Requirements of NMHSs for the GFCS (October 2011, Geneva)

To access the full reports of the meetings please visit:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/gfcs/office/meetings_en.html

MILESTONES

- End of January: Zero order draft of the implementation plan and the governance mechanism of the GFCS;
- 27 to 29 of February: 2nd meeting of the ECTT-GFCS
- Early March: review process of Zero Draft documents
- 13th of April: 1st Draft of the Implementation Plan and the governance mechanism
- 18 – 28 June: Consideration of the 1st Draft in the LXIVth session of the Executive Council
- Early July: review process of 1st Draft documents
- Early August: 2nd Draft the Implementation Plan and the governance mechanism
- Second half of August: 3rd meeting of the ECTT-GFCS
- End of August: Final document of the implementation plan and the governance mechanism

For more information, please contact:

Global Framework for Climate Services Office
Tel: (+41 –22) 730-8579 Fax: (+41 –22) 730-8037
<http://www.wmo.int/gfcs> Email: flucio@wmo.int
7 bis, avenue de la Paix – P.O. Box 2300 – CH 1211
Geneva 2 – Switzerland