



Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS): implementation approach

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The Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress, held from 29 to 31 October 2012, adopted the Implementation Plan of the Global Framework for Climate Services, for the subsequent consideration by the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services, which will host its first session in July 2013. The Extraordinary Congress called for an immediate move to action, so that the work undertaken can result in activities on the ground which will benefit, in particular, vulnerable countries.

The development of the GFCS through a broad consultation process across the pillars of the GFCS (User Interface Platform; Observations and Monitoring; Climate Services Information System; Research, Modelling and Prediction; and Capacity Development) and the initial four priority areas (Agriculture and Food Security; Water; Health and Disaster Risk Reduction) identified a number of challenges, which in some cases constitute barriers to implementation:

- Accessibility: many countries do not have climate services at all, and all countries have scope to improve access to such services;
- Capacity: many countries lack the capacity to anticipate and managed climate-related risks and opportunities;
- Data: the current availability and quality of climate observations and impacts data are inadequate for large parts of the globe;
- Partnerships: mechanisms to enhance interaction between climate users and providers are not always well developed, and user requirements are not always adequately understood and addressed;
- Quality: operational climate services are lagging advances in climate and applications science, and the spatial and temporal resolution of information to support decision-making is often insufficient to match user requirements.

To address these challenges, the Implementation Plan of the GFCS identified initial implementation projects and activities. The initial priority is to establish the leadership and management capacity to take the GFCS forward at all levels. Capacity development is seen as the critical element to build the foundation for progress. This includes but not limited to:

- Linking climate services users and providers, e.g., through User Interface mechanisms;
- Developing capacities at national level;
- Strengthening regional climate capabilities.

Taking advantage of existing mechanisms and others under planning the GFCS offers an adequate platform for coordination and integration of efforts towards effective action to deliver user tailored climate services.

This paper will provide details on the implementation approach of the GFCS and highlight progress made thus far.