



Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS): status of implementation

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The World Climate Conference-3 (Geneva 2009) unanimously decided to establish the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), a UN-led initiative spearheaded by WMO to guide the development and application of science-based climate information and services in support of decision-making in climate sensitive sectors. By promoting science-based decision-making, the GFCS is empowering governments, communities and companies to build climate resilience, reduce vulnerabilities and adapt to impacts. The initial priority areas of GFCS are Agriculture and Food Security; Disaster Risk Reduction; Health; and Water Resources.

The implementation of GFCS is well underway with a governance structure now fully established. The governance structure of GFCS includes the Partner Advisory Committee (PAC), which is GFCS's stakeholder engagement mechanism. The membership of the PAC allows for a broad participation of stakeholders. The European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), the European Commission (EC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and WMO have already joined the PAC.

Activities are being implemented in various countries in Africa, the Caribbean, Asia and Pacific Small Islands Developing States through flagship projects and activities in the four priority areas of GFCS to enable the development of a Proof of Concept. The focus at national level is on strengthening institutional capacities needed for development of capacities for co-design and co-production of climate services and their application in support of decision-making in climate sensitive sectors. Establishment of regional capacities through climate centres to support national institutional capacities is a major focus. The Proof of Concept will be replicated in other parts of the world to ensure worldwide improvements in climate services for the four priority areas to facilitate the reduction of society's vulnerability to climate-related hazards and the advancement of the key global development goals.

To streamline and harness climate research and knowledge in support of GFCS implementation, regional research plans or agendas are being shaped in different regions. For example, a Climate Research for Development Agenda for Africa (CR4D) is being developed under the leadership of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and in cooperation with the African Union Commission and other partners. Similarly, regional climate research priorities are being developed for Latin America and the Caribbean, following the WCRP Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Montevideo, March 2014). Availability of regional research plans or agendas would ensure more effective research and involvement of national experts in climate research activities.