



Enhancing National Climate Services in Africa

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The International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI,) in collaboration with National Meteorological Agencies and Regional Climate Centers, has been leading an effort to simultaneously improve the availability, access and use of climate information at the national level. This effort, named Enhancing National Climate Services (ENACTS), focuses on the creation of reliable climate information that is suitable for national and local decision-making. Data availability is improved by blending national observations with satellite and other proxies. Data access and use is improved by providing online tools for data visualization and download and training users. The online tools are integrated into the National Meteorological Services' web pages. The ENACTS approach has five major components:

1. Building technical capacity at the National Meteorology Agency to generate and use information;
2. Generating over a 30-year time series of rainfall and temperature data for every 4 km grid across each country;
3. Customizing and installing the very powerful IRI Data Library at the National Meteorology Agency;
4. Developing an online mapping service providing user-friendly tools for the analysis, visualization, and download of co-produced climate information products; and
5. Engaging stakeholders on the use of new products and services, training them on available tools, as well as incorporating their feedback and requirements into further product development.

The ENACTS approach overcomes traditional barriers in data quality and access. The spatially and temporally continuous datasets allow for characterization of climate risks at a local scale, and offer a low-cost, high impact opportunity with major potential to support climate resilient development. Making this type climate information available to the user community supports a suite of solutions that can shore up development gains and improve the lives of the most vulnerable in the face of climate variability.

ENACTS has been implemented in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Tanzania at national levels, and at the regional level for the CILSS countries. It is being implemented in Rwanda. Burkina Faso and Mali are expected to be next.