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Implementation of the Global Framework of Climate Services (GFCS) at the national level – Experiences from assessing the baseline of Climate Services in developing and emerging countries within the context of the IKI CSI project

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The objective of the global project Enhancing Climate Services for Infrastructure Investment (CSI) is to empower decision-makers to make greater use of Climate Services when planning infrastructure investments and thus help increase infrastructure resilience. The CSI project is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) in the context of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). It is realized in cooperation with the Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD) and Engineers Canada as well as with national partners in Costa Rica, Brazil, Vietnam and the Nile Basin. In order to meet its overarching goal, CSI is organized along four working areas. Specifically, CSI (1) supports the provision and use of Climate Services, (2) supports the integration of the use of Climate Services into infrastructure planning, (3) pilots climate risk assessments for infrastructure and (4) promotes international knowledge transfer and exchange.

To lay the groundwork for providing advice and capacity development in the area of Climate Services (Area 1), CSI has conducted a baseline assessment of existing Climate Services based on the conceptual provisions and guideline for establishing a National Framework for Climate Services provided by the GFCS. The baseline assesses the actual state of the five GFCS pillars on the national level and identifies involved key-stakeholders. A specific focus is on the current degree of provision and utilization of Climate Services within a specific sector. This involves an examination of the Climate-Service–value-chain (i.e. pathway from climate data to final decision-making) for the specific sector. This examination comprises identifying key-stakeholders that link climate knowledge with decision-making and their roles within the value-chain as well as assessing the current state of provided and used Climate Services and identifying current gaps and needs. The assessment of Climate-Service-value-chain is done on three levels in order to cover the entire scope of Climate Services: the product level (availability of climate products and information), the service level (availability of communication, support, advice, access and dissemination of climate information) and the institutional level (existence of cooperation and organizational structures, agreements and the level of institutionalization of tasks). As conclusion, the baseline offers concrete statements on the state of the GFCS components and recommendations which serve as basis for further discussions (e.g. for a Dialogue Forum) and the identification and prioritization of activities to enhance the use and impact of Climate Services for infrastructure investment planning.

In the presentation, experiences from the execution of the baseline assessments as well as the character and scope of recommendations are shared and discussed. This includes lessons learnt, good practices and challenges regarding the conceptualization, organization, execution and evaluation of such an assessment and subsequent recommendations.