



WISER HIGHWAY, co-development on a regional scale - lessons and challenges

Josephine Wilson (1) and the WISER Highway Team

(1) World Meteorological Organization, Development and Regional Activities, Switzerland (jowilson@wmo.int), (2) Met Office, Capacity Programmes Lead for International Development, United Kingdom (kathrin.hall@metoffice.gov.uk)

The Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER) programme is funded with UK aid from the British people and its mission is to make a step change in the quality, accessibility and use of weather and climate information services at all levels of decision making for sustainable development in Africa. It aims to deliver maximum value for money by working in partnership and collaboration, capacity building and leveraging funds to ensure long-term sustainable delivery and improvement of weather and climate services in Africa.

The High Impact Weather Lake System (HIGHWAY) project is part of the WISER programme and aims to develop improved early warnings to prevent deaths and damage due to severe convection and strong winds in the Lake Victoria Basin. This three-year project is led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and brings together international, regional and national partners, including the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, the Met Office, the UK's national meteorological service, the East African Community (EAC), the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), and the US National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). Together, they are tackling challenges such as the availability of essential land-based observations and data and organizational barriers that permit people from working together effectively. HIGHWAY provides forecasters with training on how to develop and deliver regular weather forecasts and warnings to fishing boat and small transport vessel operators. Innovative nowcasting and forecasting products are being co-designed to improve early warnings of high impact weather in the region. The project is putting the WISER Co-production approach into practise and is co-developing services between organizations such as government, intermediaries, media and community groups. As a result, enhanced weather warning will be communicated via a number of channels, including local radio and mobile phones, increasing the reach and ultimately saving lives on Lake Victoria.

During the presentation, lessons and challenges from this co-development project will be shared, amongst others, the sustainability of a regional Early Warning System. We will also share some of the enablers and barriers to the success of co-production such as effective facilitation and participation.