



ICA&D: Climate services for developing countries

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The starting point for weather and climate services in any region of the world are weather observations allowing for the assessment of trends and risks related to extremes, for putting the present weather in a historical context, for the calibration and validation of satellite products, and for the verification of weather forecast and climate projections. However, in many developing countries such essential services are not available because observations are absent or scarce or not easily accessible, or because the required technical facilities and institutional structures are lacking. The expertise for the collection, quality control, analysis, and dissemination of observational data is often insufficiently developed to adequately serve national stakeholders.

The goal of the ICA&D-initiative (ICA&D: International Climate Assessment and Dataset) is to enable individual developing countries, i.e. LDCs and SIDS, to provide these services based on the past and present weather and climate observations in a specific region. The services support effective decision making in important sectors like agriculture and food security, health, water management and energy. Technically this is done by regional implementations of a service similar to the European Climate Assessment and Dataset (ECA&D, www.ecad.eu) in collaboration with local partners, and based on observational data of a specific region. The web-based system, developed at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), provides basic data as well as tools for quality control, statistical analysis (e.g. trends, return-periods), and derived application-oriented climate indicators. It serves as the backbone of the WMO certified Regional Climate Centers for climate data. Currently, there are services operational in Europe (ECA&D), Southeast Asia (SACA&D), and Latin America (LACA&D), and an implementation for the Western-African Region (WACA&D) is in development.

In this presentation we will report on the current status of ICA&D and progress made in the different regions and share our experience and future plans.