



# ECOWAS HYDROMET FORUM AND DRR PLATFORM

19 – 21 September 2018

ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

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## **Summary:**

The ECOWAS HYDROMET FORUM AND DRR PLATFORM will be convened under the leadership of the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS) in partnership with the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, AMCOMET, WMO, CREWS, EUMETSAT, UNISDR, CILSS, WASCAL, World Bank / GFDRR, African Development Bank, AFD, UNDP and WFP. The forum will be organized in close coordination with the AMCOMET technical meetings, the EUMETSAT user forum and the ECOWAS sub-regional platform for disaster risk reduction.

The forum will bring together representatives from West Africa governments, regional and global institutions such as the UN, development partners, technical institutions, civil society, private sector, and user groups to deliberate and provide insight on how existing weather, water and climate information strategies and programs can be harnessed to achieve sustainable development in the region.

It will provide a forum for experts and decision makers from regional organizations, academia and national hydromet services, disaster risk management organizations and ministries of finance with global expertise and finance institutions to discuss regional initiatives, identify areas for collaboration and discussing financing opportunities. Concrete proposals and actions for technical assistance and investment finance will be discussed, notably in the context of the CREWS initiative and the Africa Hydromet Program. The forum will provide a platform for the private sector to present initiatives and business proposals linking to hydromet and disaster risk management services and will connect academia and experts from the region with each other and with global and continental expertise to foster regional collaboration and link research with practice and applications.

## **Background**

During the last three decades, over 75% of West Africa's population lives in areas affected at least once in every two years by flood, dust/sandstorm and drought. Hundreds of people and their livelihoods in West African countries are periodically exposed to, at least, one disaster event caused by vulnerability to natural hazards. With climate change, hydro-meteorological disasters are likely to occur frequently and more severely. Moreover, temperatures rising leading to increase in evapotranspiration may affect water availability and energy production in the region. Many of the disasters affecting West Africa have regional impacts for example across the riparian countries in the Niger basin, along the major cities of the Gulf of Guinea or are related to food security and drought in the Sahel belt. In recent years the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) together with other regional and continental

organizations, including the African Union and CILSS, have worked towards finding regional answers, policies and support across West Africa to better manage weather and climate risks in the region.

Of those 15 member states of ECOWAS with more than 300 million inhabitants, the current capacities of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) as well as Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection Services does not allow them to provide the adequate climate services that contribute to climate-resilient development and adaptation planning. This leads to the urgent need for improved weather, water and climate information and advice to inform adaptation planning to help build climate and disaster resilience of communities and economies of the region.

The weather, water and climate services provided by NMHSs, which include early warnings, alerts and advisories for climate change adaptation, are critical for sectors that drive the region's economies and directly supports (i) smart agriculture and food security; (ii) water resources for irrigation, hydro-power, renewable energy and water supply; (iii) better planning for health services; (iv) improving access to safe air, marine and road transport; and, (v) reducing the socio-economic impacts of floods, drought and other natural hazards; (iv) Strengthening good governance. They also support disaster and climate risk mapping, and disaster/climate risk financing and insurance solutions. Furthermore, they help contain fragility and promote peace-building by promoting sustainable natural resource management and growth, apart from boosting tourism and travel sectors that promote economic development and employment.

In recent years ECOWAS has played a stronger role in integrating regional initiatives on disaster risk reduction through the ECOWAS DRR policy and the ECOWAS DRR Plan of Action 2015 – 2030, which is currently being rolled out with the Support of the ACP-EU Program for strengthening disaster risk reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition the ECOWAS Meteorology Program, the decades of progress on strengthening agro-meteorology and food security monitoring through CILSS, river basin observatories of the major River Basin organizations of West Africa (OMVS, VBA, NBA, LCBC), the West Africa Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) and the support to regional climate centers of AfDB and WMO have contributed to different initiatives for strengthening hydromet, early warning and disaster risk management services in the region.

In addition continental efforts and initiatives have created the momentum to effectively support the modernization and capacity building of these services in Africa, including the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology<sup>1</sup> (AMCOMET), the African Ministerial

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<sup>1</sup> [www.amcomet.org](http://www.amcomet.org)

Council for Water<sup>2</sup> (AMCOW), the Global Framework for Climate Services<sup>3</sup> (GFCS) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the African Center for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) and African Development Bank's support to climate services in Africa.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the World Bank Group launched a collaborative framework program to support the modernization of the African hydromet Services at national, sub-regional and regional levels, in partnership with other institutions such as AFD (French Development Agency), World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Strongly supported by the Government of Japan, European Union, the multilateral Climate Risk Early Warning System (CREWS) initiative and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

In 2017, the AMCOMET Africa Hydromet Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, gathered about 500 delegates including African leaders from governments, public and private sectors, civil society, and development partners who agreed that improved weather, water, and climate services, known collectively as hydromet, can ease disaster-related losses and boost their economies. During the Forum, NGOs representing civil society users have urged the WMO, the GFCS, RCCs, NMHSs and other hydro-meteorological stakeholders for the production of climate end-users driven services, primarily those at community level and largely engaged in climate-vulnerable livelihoods, such as small-scale agriculture, pastoralism.

The ECOWAS Hydromet Forum will build upon this momentum and host a regional forum that will connect different initiatives in the region and create a platform for strengthening and sustaining of sub-regional and national hydromet, early warning initiatives and disaster risk management services to connect with regional programs, global technical expertise and financing partners. The ECOWAS Hydromet Forum would be held in synergy with the ECOWAS sub-regional platform for DRR and the meeting of the AMCOMET Bureau in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of the ECOWAS HYDROMET FORUM AND DRR PLATFORM are to:

1. Underscore regional leadership to strengthening weather, water and climate services in their global public good function for climate risk management, climate adaptation and disaster risk management;

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.amcow-online.org/>  
<sup>3</sup> [www.wmo.int/gfcs](http://www.wmo.int/gfcs)

2. Serve as a platform for exchange of knowledge, information and ideas – and stock-taking of progress in modernizing the hydromet services of the region;
3. Become a listening post for development partners on the needs of sectors and user groups to customize programs and investments and discuss concrete regional and national initiatives and program to support these needs.
4. Convene a platform for governments, regional organizations, donors, private sector, civil society, academia, technical community, youth and gender groups to discuss and design the future course of hydromet service modernization and strengthening disaster risk management in West Africa.
5. Connect academia, global and regional initiatives in support of weather, water and climate services
6. Highlight private sector initiatives in support of hydromet, early warning and disaster risk management services, share good practices of private sector support and connect potential business partners to ongoing initiatives.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- A forum created for climate service provider and users to identify potential solution and mechanisms to build and strengthen network through exchange of knowledge, sharing of information and ideas on modernization, strengthening and sustaining of hydromet services and service delivery in West Africa.
- A platform created for governments, regional organizations, donors, private sector, civil society, academia, technical community, youth and gender groups to discuss and design the future course of hydromet service modernization and disaster risk management.
- Opportunity created for development partners to understand the needs of various sectors and user groups to customize programs and investments in climate services and disaster risk management.
- Consensus and awareness created among stakeholders about the benefits of investments in weather, water and climate services, early warning systems and early response.
- Good practice illustrated on private sector initiatives in support of hydromet and early warning services.

### **Implementation Arrangements:**

- In collaboration with the World Bank / GFDRR, WMO, and other Development Partners, the ECOWAS Commission will organize a three day Forum from 19<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) to 21<sup>th</sup> (Friday) September 2018.
- The proposed location for the ECOWAS Hydromet Forum is Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire to coincide with the AMCOMET Bureau meeting and the EUMETSAT User Forum.
- Presentations and overview of existing framework shall be made by key expert and resources persons from regional and international organizations (ECOWAS, CILSS, River Basin Authorities) partners (World Bank, WMO, UNDP, UNISDR, AfDB, IFRC, WFP, AFD, EU) and research and scientific institutions (WASCAL, ASECNA, ACMAD),
- The Forum will consist of 1 day plenary sessions, 1 day break out and parallel sessions and 1 day high level plenary sessions; The second day will consist of parallel sessions including dedicated sessions of the sub regional platform for DRR and the CREWS initiative.
- The Forum will provide enough “space” for side meetings and technical discussions on concrete proposals and concept notes for on-going and planned projects and programs (for example in the context of CREWS or the Africa Hydromet program)
- A team of rapporteur will be engage to develop report on outcomes, recommendations and road map; It is expected that a joint communiqué will be prepared;
- Implementing partners will be ECOWAS, World Bank, African Development Bank, WMO/ CREWS, WASCAL, and CILSS.

### **Funding:**

This implementation of this activity will be financed by the ACP-EU Project “Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction Coordination, Planning and Policy Advisory Capacity of ECOWAS”.

Under the fund, the ECOWAS Commission will be responsible for covering the cost of conference venue and logistics, interpretation, catering, travels and lodging of invited participants from ECOWAS Member States, including other miscellaneous expenses of the workshop.

The World Bank GFDRR will support technical assistance in identifying the resource persons, engaging with the UN and other partners, and other necessary support activities for organizing the said Forum.

## **Profile of Participants:**

The Forum will bring together all relevant stakeholders, key partners and important players to collectively identify challenges, opportunities and sharing best practices towards the effective and results driven mechanisms for strengthening weather, water and climate services in their global public good function for climate risk management in West Africa.

In particular, line ministries working in climate services, hydromet, environment, disaster risk management, resource persons, professionals and experts working in the field of DRR, early warning , donors, multi-lateral and bi-lateral partners, the private sector and civil society representatives, research and academic institutions, local knowledge and resilience to disaster and climate change among others will be participating.

## **Convening Partners:**

1. ECOWAS
2. Government of Cote d'Ivoire – Ministry of Transport, Water, Irrigation and Electricity
3. African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET)
4. World Bank / GFDRR
5. World Meteorological Organization
6. African Development Bank
7. ACMAD
8. CILSS/AGRHYMET
9. CREWS
10. WASCAL

Participants = 200

## Draft List of Invited Institutions/Entities

<p><b>West African Ministers</b> Responsible for (i) Meteorology, (ii) Finance and Planning, (iii) Water, and (iv) DRR</p> <p>=15 * 4 = 60 participants</p>	<p><b>International Development Partners</b> (Green Climate Fund, European Union, AFD, Government of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, GIZ, USAID, DFID, Danish International Development Agency, ACP Secretariat)</p> <p>= 10 participants</p>	<p><b>UN Agencies</b> (UNECA, UNISDR, FAO, UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, WFP, UNCCD)</p> <p>= 10 participants</p>
<p><b>West African National Institutions</b> (National (i) Meteorological and (ii) Hydrological Services, (iii) Civil Protection Agencies, Disaster Risk Management Agencies, (iv) National Designated Authorities, Ministries of Finance )</p> <p>= 15 * 4 = 60 participants</p>	<p><b>Continental Institutions</b> (ASECNA, West African Ministerial Council on Water, Africa Climate Policy Centre, West African River Basin Authorities, West African Africa Group of Negotiators, African Risk Capacity)</p> <p>= 5 participants</p>	<p><b>Civil Society Organizations</b> Youth and Gender organizations, Farmers' Organizations, IFRC</p> <p>= 10 participants</p>
<p><b>The West African Regional Economic Communities</b> (ECOWAS and UEMOA)</p> <p>= 10 participants</p>	<p><b>Global &amp; Continental Initiatives</b> (CREWS, ClimDev Africa, Africa Risk Capacity, Africa Adaptation Initiative, AfriGEOSS)</p> <p>= 5 participants</p>	<p><b>Youth and Gender Organizations</b></p>
<p><b>Regional Climate Centers</b> (CILSS, AGRHYMET, ACMAD, WASCAL)</p> <p>= 10 participants</p>	<p><b>Universities</b> (Abidjan, Dakar, Nigeria, Burkina, Niger,..., 1 university per country)</p> <p>= 10 participants</p>	<p><b>Private Sector Representatives</b></p> <p>= 5 participants</p>
<p><b>International Implementing Partners</b> (JMA, Météo Swiss, UKMO, Norwegian Met Institute, Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, Finnish Meteorological Institute, European Space Agency, EUMETSAT, ECMWF, DWD)</p> <p>= 10 participants</p>		<p><b>Other Partners</b> (UNFCCC, Africa Group of Negotiators, TAHMO, Delft University, Water Center of Excellence, Earth Network, Red Cross Climate Center)</p>



## ECOWAS HYDROMET FORUM AND DRR PLATFORM

<b>Day 1: September 19, 2018 (Wednesday)</b>	
9.00 – 10.30	<b>Opening</b>
10.30 – 11.15	Coffee Break
11.15– 12.45	<b>Plenary Session: Status of weather, water and early warning services in West Africa</b>  <b>Keynote Speech:</b> <i>Importance of hydromet, early warning and disaster risk management for regional integration and sustainable development in West Africa</i>
12.45 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15.30	<b>Plenary Session: Toward a closer integration of policies, strategies and institutions in support of effective early warning in West Africa</b>
15.30 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 17.30	<b>Plenary Session:</b> Financing weather, water and early warning services in West Africa

## ECOWAS HYDROMET FORUM AND DRR PLATFORM

<b>Day 2 : September 20, 2018 (in parallel with AMCOMET)</b>			
9.00 – 10.30	<p>Technical Session (WMO):</p> <p>West Africa Knowledge Database on Climate Extremes</p> <p>West Africa Climate Assessment &amp; Dataset climate services concept</p>	<p>Technical Session (WASCAL):</p> <p>Toward a regional policy framework for flood management</p>	<p>Sub-regional platform (ECOWAS):</p> <p>Update on global, regional and national DRR policies and strategies</p>
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee Break ( <i>ignite stage</i> )		
10.30 – 12.30	<p>Technical Session (WMO):</p> <p>Training for maintenance, monitoring, data management, forecasting</p>	<p>Technical Session (WASCAL):</p> <p>Strengthening the academic network for hydromet services and DRR</p>	<p>Sub-regional platform (ECOWAS):</p> <p>Status of risk finance and insurance initiatives in West Africa</p>
12.30 14.00	Lunch		
14.00 – 15.30	<p>Technical Session (WMO):</p> <p>Strategic planning for hydrological and meteorological services;</p> <p>Global Framework for Climate Services</p>	<p>Technical Session (WASCAL):</p> <p>River basins, monitoring and early warning</p>	<p>Sub-regional platform (ECOWAS):</p> <p>Planning and managing recovery at regional and national level</p>
15.30 16.00	Coffee break ( <i>ignite stage</i> )		
16.00 – 17.30	<p>Technical Session (WMO):</p> <p>Severe weather forecasting demonstration project; Flash Flood Guidance; “Urban “ applications</p>	<p>Technical Session (WMO, CILSS):</p> <p>Agriculture and food security applications</p> <p>TAMSAT Agricultural Early warning system (<u>TAMSAT-ALERT</u>)</p>	<p>Technical Session (WMO):</p> <p>Sector applications for aviation, transport,</p>

## ECOWAS HYDROMET FORUM AND DRR PLATFORM

<b>Day 3 September 21, 2018 (in parallel with AMCOMET)</b>	
9.00 – 10.30	<b>Plenary session: Strengthening regional initiatives, projects and programs</b> Presentations and panel discussions on regional collaboration and initiatives for strengthening hydromet, early warning and disaster management services
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 12.30	<b>Plenary Session: Harnessing partnerships and private sector</b>
12.30 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.30	<b>High level plenary session (jointly with AMCOMET): Toward sustainable financing for hydromet, early warning and DRR services</b>
15.30 16.30	<b>Closing session &amp; Communiqué</b> Guidance to ECOWAS, Arab-Africa Regional Platform, AMCOMET High level closing remarks
16.30 – 17.00	Networking and reception