

Public FCFA launch

Background

Sub-Saharan Africa is developing rapidly. Simultaneously, it is the only region where vulnerability to weather extremes is rising. The availability of high-quality climate information is a crucial foundation for effective climate risk management and adaptation. Yet challenges abound: many parts of Africa currently have very weak climate information and services. The science is generally not available and where it is, is not used. Investment in better climate information can provide an important, cost-effective opportunity to enhance well-being through more effective disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and development.

Central to any rationale for investing in improved climate information (both the fundamental science and decision support tools and products) for various African contexts is to answer the question **“How could better climate science, information, and services improve development decision making?”**

The discussion will draw on the expertise of panelists representing the FCFA research consortia and leading international research institutions and climate service providers. The side event format will encourage input from all attendees - acknowledging the significant collective experience that will be present.

Expected outcomes

- Stakeholders are aware of FCFA programme objectives and work over the next four years and feel free to contact programme with any queries or inputs,
- FCFA receives a general mandate (“licence to operate”) at the regional and pan-African scales,
- Stakeholders give input to shape the FCFA agenda, to advance demonstrations of the value of climate information in development decision-making (particularly with regards to the production of decision support processes, products, and tools).

The side event will be open to all CCDA-5 attendees. The CCKE will also actively solicit the attendance of select strategic stakeholders.

Format

The event will be structured around a lightly scripted, moderated conversations between panelists representing FCFA research consortia (see Table 1 below). Each panelists will receive two questions to which a short response of no more than three minutes should be prepared (see Table 2 below). Brief opening and closing addresses will be delivered by external partners.

CCDA-5 will host the side events on 28 October, 15:30-19:00 in the main conference hall. Simultaneous translation for francophone attendees will be available. The event will be filmed. Moderator: Stef Raubenheimer

Table 1: FCFA launch side-event participants

Opening address: Dr Arame Tall	GFCS, FAO
Closing address: TBC	N/A
Panelists:	
Prof Fred Semazzi	HyCRISTAL, University of Connecticut
Dr Richard Anyah	HyCRISTAL,
Dr Richard Graham	IMPALA, MetOffice
Dr Chris Jack	FRACTAL, University of Cape Town
Dr Babatunde Abiodun	IMPALA, University of Cape Town
Paul Watkiss	FCFA Coordination unit, GCAP
TBC	UMFULA
TBC	AMMA-2050
Jean-Pierre Roux	FCFA Coordination unit, SouthSouthNorth
Moderator: Stef Raubenheimer	FCFA Coordination unit, SouthSouthNorth

Table 2: Detailed agenda

Opening address: Dr Arame Tall, 5 min		
#	Question	Respondent
Cluster 1: WHY FCFA? 20 min		
1	Future Climate For Africa is one of the biggest single investments in climate science research for Africa. What is novel and significant about it?	Jean-Pierre Roux
2	A big part of the research will aim to improve climate forecasts for the medium and long term, i.e 5-40 years. What is the potential importance of this timeframe for decision makers and planners?	Paul Watkiss
3	Given the needs of decision makers, what are the big scientific challenges that need to be resolved?	Babatunde Abiodun
4	As both a scientist and a lead figure in the climate research for development agenda, in your opinion what are the big climate science priorities for Africa?	Richard Anyah

5	Decision makers have to make tough decisions (e.g. like how to allocate scarce financial resources among agricultural development or a water management schemes or infrastructure). How do you bridge the fact that climate science for Africa is an emerging and live area of research and scientific contestation, with the demand to deliver robust information to decision makers?	Chris Jack
Cluster 2: WHAT FCFA? 20 min		
1	Given the ambitious objectives highlighted, how is the programme structured to achieve impact? What is the scope of the project and who is funding it?	Jean-Pierre Roux
2	Your research consortium, HyCRISTAL, is working in East Africa, with a predominant usage focus of rural livelihoods, urban sanitation, and integrated water resource management. Can you briefly tell us a bit more about these case studies?	Fred Semazzi
3	Your research consortium, FRACTAL, has a strong focus on cities, could you describe some of the work you hope to do in Windhoek, Lusaka and Maputo?	Chris Jack
4	Your consortium is continuing more than a decade of research to understand the West African monsoon through the AMMA programme, how will the work under FCFA add to this?	TBC
5	You are working in southern Malawi and Tanzania, with a particular focus on water resource management, please tell us what you hope to achieve in these contexts, both in terms of improving the science and usage of climate information?	TBC
6	IMPALA will focus its energy on improving global climate models. What exactly does this entail?	Richard Graham
Question from the floor: 10 min		
Cluster 3: HOW FCFA? 20 min		
1	We've now broadly discussed the "WHY?" and the "WHAT?" of FCFA, let's explore the different approaches to how FCFA will address development goals. Paul, you have extensive experience on the African content working with decision makers. How has the approach to integrating climate information into	Paul Watkiss

	development decisions evolved over the years?	
2	Chris, FRACTAL is looking closely at the co-exploration of knowledge with partners at the city level. Won't you tell us more about the co-exploration approach?	Chris Jack
3	What is HyCRISTAL's engagement strategy in East Africa?	Richard Anyah
4	We've focused on the use of climate information in very specific decision contexts in the FCFA case studies. How will IMPALA's research add value to decision makers at a regional and pan-African level?	Babatunde Abiodun
5	Apart from your scientific research, you've also written on the research capacity within Africa to do climate science. What are the main challenges in developing scientific capacity in Africa and how will FCFA address these?	Fred Semazzi
Questions from the floor: 15 min		
Closing address: TBC 5 min		