

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION
AND
THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

The World Meteorological Organization (hereinafter referred to as "WMO") and the Indian Ocean Commission (hereinafter referred to as "IOC"),

WHEREAS the two organizations have an interest in cooperating in the IOC region in the fields of climatology, meteorology, hydrology and water resources, management and prevention of natural disasters, marine and physical oceanography, development of human resources and socio-economic well-being, scientific research, health and environmental monitoring, as part of the Organizations' portfolios that are described in further detail in the Annex to this Memorandum;

RECALLING that WMO has the task in particular of coordinating the activities of its Members regarding the production, processing, archiving and exchange of meteorological, hydrological, climatological and related geophysical data in accordance with internationally agreed standards; promoting research and training in these areas at national, regional and global levels; and facilitating the development of services and the application of products to improve the safety and quality of life of communities, protecting the environment and ensuring the sustainable development of nations and humanity as a whole;

STRESSING the valuable cooperation between the IOC and WMO to date, particularly in the context of assessing and implementing regional activities and projects such as the IOC meteorology projects;

RECALLING further the role of IOC as a regional intergovernmental organization responsible for improving coordination between itself and its partners and between its constituent bodies, and for promoting the effective and rational execution of its projects and activities;

NOTING past IOC meteorological projects, preparations for the use of Meteosat second generation satellites in Africa project (PUMA), the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) programme, the African Monitoring for Environment and Security project (MESA) and the regional strategy for adaptation to climate change in IOC Member States, aiming, inter alia, to promote the exploitation of observations and infrastructure, services and related networks, and to enhance meteorological and geophysical knowledge and skills for socio-economic development;

ACKNOWLEDGING the common interests and priorities agreed at the regional level of the IOC Member States with regard to the progress of science and technology and their exploitation for economic and social development;

STRESSING the importance of strengthening relations between WMO and IOC in areas of mutual interest;

Hereby agree to step up cooperation and undertake in particular:

- To use existing cooperation and coordination arrangements or to establish new ones, as needed, to facilitate the exchange of scientific knowledge and technical experience in the fields of:
 - meteorology, hydrology and water resources, and climatology, notably climate change and variability, meteorological aspects of regional environmental problems,



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- strengthening the capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs),
- research and development and of physical oceanography and marine meteorology;
- To collaborate on the availability of earth observations in support of climate change monitoring, projection and adaptation;
- To promote, where appropriate, scientific research and the development of human resources, facilitating studies as far as possible and coordinating the exchange of knowledge, skills, competencies, documents and publications relating to climatology, the preservation and digitization of historical climate data, the modelling and prediction of climate and climate change at the sub-regional level, notably rising sea levels and their impact on coastal zone and marine ecological systems, the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon and its impact on the region, maritime services, trans-boundary air and sea pollution, assessment of water resources and the prevention and management of natural disasters;
- To promote the implementation of the GFCS in the Indian Ocean region, particularly through strengthening of regional and national elements including, inter alia, Regional Climate Centers (RCCs), Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) and National Climate Outlook Forums (NCOFs);
- To keep one another informed of work programmes, projects, activities and publications of mutual interest;
- To make the necessary arrangements, on request, to enable each organization to attend sessions or meetings of the other organization that cover issues of mutual interest; and
- To make appropriate arrangements for the representatives of the two organizations to meet as needed to review progress on the ongoing cooperation activities and to explore new cooperation projects.

Notwithstanding the above, WMO and IOC may seek to step up their cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.

IOC and WMO shall each appoint a Representative who shall coordinate relations with the other Party and who shall keep the Head of his/her Organization informed. Any change of Representative shall be communicated in writing to the other Party.

The IOC Representative and the WMO Representative shall monitor and periodically review the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding and shall identify issues for consideration by the competent constituent bodies of WMO and IOC as appropriate.

Nothing contained in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be deemed a waiver of any of the privileges and immunities enjoyed by either Party. The IOC and WMO shall settle between them any question of interpretation or difference concerning this Memorandum of Understanding.

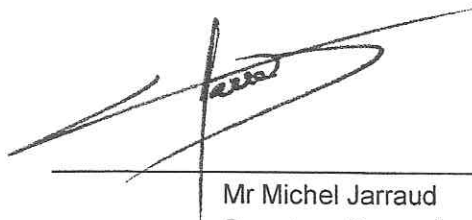
This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect on the date it is signed by the Secretary-General's of the two organizations and is concluded for an initial three year period. This Memorandum of Understanding shall be tacitly renewed for three-year periods, unless either Party requests termination in writing.

The Parties may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding, for any reason, by giving three months' notice in writing to the other Party.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'O' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Done in duplicate, in the English language

For: The World Meteorological Organization



Mr Michel Jarraud
Secretary-General

3.9.2014

Date

For: The Indian Ocean Commission



Mr Jean Claude de l'Estrac
Secretary-General

3.9.2014

Date



ANNEX

BACKGROUND

In recent years, significant steps have been achieved or taken with regards to the fields of meteorology, hydrology, climatology, natural disasters, environmental monitoring, etc.; which have and will continue to have significant influence and implication on the development issues globally, in Africa and in particular in the IOC region. These steps include inter-alia:

The adoption of the regional strategy for climate change adaptation of the Member States of the Indian Ocean Commission and the implementation of the marine and coastal resources management component of the Monitoring Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) project, and taking into account development of new strategies, plans for climate activities and services in particular:

- The Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) which builds on the vision of the Global Framework for Climate Services ,
- The Indian Ocean Data Rescue Initiative (INDARE) serving to preserve, digitise and use invaluable old climate records in the Indian Ocean rim countries and Islands;
- The South West Indian Ocean Climate Outlook Forum (SWIOCOF) initiated in 2012 and being coordinated by the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD);
- The Addis Ababa Declaration (2012) agreeing to provide support for the implementation of WMO Regional Climate Centre (RCC) concept for the Indian Ocean.

THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)

THE ROLE OF WMO

WMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations dealing with weather, climate and water and the interaction of the earth-ocean-atmosphere system. One of the roles of WMO is to take part in developing guidelines and norms that allow meteorological measurements to be standardized, exchanged internationally for weather watch and forecasting, archived for climate studies, and relevant application of this information.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING

The mission and purpose of WMO are set out in its Convention (1947, revised 2007) as follows:

- To facilitate worldwide cooperation in the establishment of networks of stations for the making of meteorological observations as well as hydrological and other geophysical observations related to meteorology, and to promote the establishment and maintenance of centres charged with the provision of meteorological and related services;
- To promote the establishment and maintenance of systems for the rapid exchange of meteorological and related information;
- To promote standardization of meteorological and related observations and to ensure the uniform publication of observations and statistics;
- To further the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, water problems, agriculture and other human activities;



- To promote activities in operational hydrology and to further close cooperation between Meteorological and Hydrological Services; and
- To encourage research and training in meteorology and, as appropriate, in related fields and to assist in coordinating the international aspects of such research and training.

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES (GFCS)


Heads of States and Governments, Ministers and Heads of Delegation representing more than 150 countries, 34 United Nations Organizations and 36 Governmental and non-Governmental international organizations present at the Third World Climate Conference (WCC-3) decided unanimously to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). Since then, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) with UN partner agencies has been leading the development of a detailed Implementation Plan for the Framework which was approved by the First Session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS) in July 2013 for immediate implementation. The Framework will focus in the short term, on the provision of climate services for water, agriculture and food security, health, and disaster risk reduction. It will do so by building on five pillars:

- User Interface Platform: a structured means for users, climate researchers and climate information providers to interact at all levels;
- Climate Services Information System: the mechanism through which information and services about climate (past, present and future) will be generated and delivered ;
- Observations and Monitoring: to ensure that climate observations and other data, including metadata and socio-economic data, required to meet the needs of end users are collected, managed, and disseminated;
- Research, Modelling and Prediction: to foster research towards continually improving the scientific quality of climate information and services, providing an evidence base for the impacts of climate change and variability and for the value of using climate information;
- Capacity Development: to build or strengthen the needed capacities of both providers and users, such as needed capacities to interpret, translate and use climate information to support decision making.

The implementation of the pillars' activities shall be achieved through partnerships for ensuring a better use of existing infrastructure, technical capacities and resources.

AFRICAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON METEOROLOGY (AMCOMET)

The African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) was established in April 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya in collaboration between the World Meteorological Organisation and the African Union Commission as a high-level mechanism to promote the development of meteorology, its applications and contribution to socio-economic development in Africa. AMCOMET is the intergovernmental platform on meteorology, which fosters political will to strengthen National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) enabling them to fully perform their roles and fulfil their mandates as fundamental components of national and regional development infrastructures.



The Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) was approved during the Second Session of AMCOMET in October 2012 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe and was subsequently endorsed by the Executive Council of the African Union in January 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

THE INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION (IOC)

THE ROLE OF IOC

The Indian Ocean Commission is an intergovernmental organization established in 1982 at Port Louis (Mauritius) and institutionalized in 1984 by the Victoria Agreement (Seychelles). It is composed of five countries in the Indian Ocean region: Comoros, France/Réunion, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.

The principal mission of IOC is to strengthen the ties of friendship and to be a platform of solidarity for the entire population of the African Indian Ocean region, and to build regional sustainable development projects designed to protect them, improve their living conditions and conserve the natural resources on which they are heavily dependent.

IOC ACTION

IOC is a vehicle for collective action to enable its island Member States to face the challenges and take the opportunities of sustainable development in the African Indian Ocean region. IOC therefore abides by the principles of solidarity, subsidiarity and complementarity in the action it takes. The strategic thrusts, focus areas and spheres of activity adopted for the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2013-2016 are used to interpret the fundamental objectives of IOC adopted by the authorities. The architecture of the SDP has four strategic thrusts and five focus areas:

- Strategic thrust 1: A political and diplomatic force for human development

Sphere of activity 1: Stability and diplomacy, health, gender and mobility

- Strategic thrust 2: A secure regional space to drive smart economic growth

Sphere of activity 2: Regional economic area and infrastructure

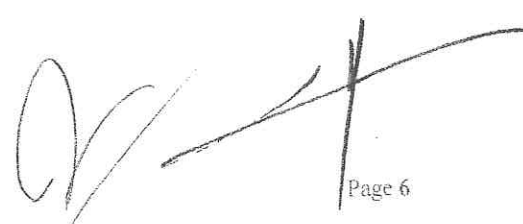
Sphere of activity 3: Blue and green regional growth centres, economic specialization and development

- Strategic thrust 3: A common island and ocean environment that is resilient and sustainable

Sphere of activity 4: Sustainable environment and climate change

- Strategic thrust 4: The identity and promotion of the African Indian Ocean region

Sphere of activity 5: Ocean identity and development of natural and human resources



REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN MEMBER STATES OF
THE INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION (2012-2020)

Climate change is a cross-cutting issue that poses a challenge to the development of island and coastal countries. IOC has been working on this issue for years and its mandate was strengthened following the decision of the IOC Summit of Heads of State in 2005 and the statement made in 2008 by its Member States on climate change and loss of biodiversity. A general adaptation project started in late 2008 (the ACCLimate project) one important outcome of which was the adoption of a regional climate change adaptation strategy for IOC Member States in January 2013. This strategy is based on one priority cross-cutting thrust (spatial planning, including risk management and development) and four sectoral thrusts (environment, public health - human and animal -, food security - agriculture, livestock farming, fisheries and aquaculture -, and water resources).

