



## **GCF Technical Expert Meeting on Climate Information, Early Warning and Disaster Risk Reduction Services**

*Dates and duration:* Thursday, May 16, 2019 (9:00 – 13:00)

*Host:* Swiss Government

*Venue:* Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and to the other international organizations in Geneva Rue de Varembé 9–11 **(CCV Building, 4th floor)**  
CH-1211 Geneva 20

*Number of participants:* 25 technical experts, 4 GCF staff

*Participants:* Experts in climate information and early warning systems with background on related policies and programmes in global, national, or subnational levels from research, civil society, government and financial institutions with knowledge of GCF, its activities and challenges in relation to climate information services

### **I. Background and Context**

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) provides financial support to developing countries to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change, with the goal of promoting paradigm shift towards low emissions and climate resilient development.

GCF recognizes that significant investment is needed to build climate information, early warning and disaster risk reduction services in order to support countries develop transformative projects for climate action. Climate actions will require new policies, technological innovations, attitudinal changes and ramping up adaptation and mitigation financing, all of which should be informed by robust climate information and early warning systems. The lack of such information in projects could lead to maladaptation, loss of investments and increases in long-term climate risks. To effectively reduce risk of vulnerable communities and limit global warming to 1.5°C in accordance with the Paris Agreement, countries need to mainstream robust climate information, early warning and risk reduction services into policy and decision-making to enable their transition to a low-emission climate-resilient development pathway. However, most developing countries are unable to provide these services at a range of decision timelines to support climate-resilient development planning.

The first replenishment of GCF is ongoing and a workplan has been developed by the GCF Secretariat to ensure investments in areas where GCF can have most impact and to guide stakeholders on how to develop quality proposals for GCF. Due to the strategic and cross-cutting linkages of climate information, early warning and disaster risk reduction services with all GCF result areas and sectors, the approach is to develop strategic frameworks, guides and request for proposals for robust climate information and early warning systems, building on and/or integrate existing global, continental, regional, national and sub-national work of GCF's constituencies and partners.

To formulate these strategies, guides and proposals, GCF is utilizing different methods to gather inputs from various sources including engaging in a strategic partnership with the World Meteorological Organization. GCF is also organizing meetings and dialogues to collect expert



views on climate information and early warning systems. These initiatives will also feed into the UN Climate Action Summit in September 2019.

## II. Objectives

The technical expert meeting aims to:

- Socialize elements of the conceptual framework for climate information, early warning and disaster risk reduction services strategy and guide
- Gather inputs for further development of the strategy and guides for climate information, early warning and disaster risk reduction services
- Identify best practices in climate information, early warning, and disaster risk reduction services investments and interventions

## III. Expected Outputs and Outcomes

The following objectives, outputs and outcomes are expected as a result of the meeting:

Specific Objectives	Expected Outputs	Expected Outcomes
<b>Leadership, policy and frameworks</b>		
1. Seek support from high-level leadership in creating awareness of the acute capacity and funding gaps in making widely available robust climate information, early warning and risk financing services for SIDS, LDCs and Africa in meeting their commitments under the Paris agreement, Sendai framework and sustainable development goals 2. Build a high-level consensus on coordinated approaches to supporting the most vulnerable countries SIDS, LDCS and Africa to establish systems and processes for effective access and use robust climate information, early warning and risk financing services to build their resilience to climate variability and change. 3. Seek a strong high-level political message to drive uptake and investments in climate information, early warning and risk financing services for climate action in most vulnerable countries	1. Awareness of the increasing cost of disasters, declining capacity and investment in climate information and early warning services in most vulnerable countries raised. 2. High-level consensus on the need for a coordinated, integrated and comprehensive approach to supporting most vulnerable countries to establish effective and efficient climate information, early warning and risk financing services established. 3. A strong high-level political message to drive uptake and investments in climate information, early warning and risk financing services for climate action in most vulnerable countries delivered.	- Leadership to drive/support resource mobilizing efforts to make robust climate information, early warning and risk financing services widely available in most vulnerable countries  - High-level consensus to inform the framing of a coordinated approach to supporting most vulnerable countries establish robust climate information, early warning and risk financing services.
<b>Building a strong project pipeline</b>		
1. Take stock of climate information, early warning and	1. Status of capacity and financial gaps of climate	A roadmap developed for improving access,

<p>risk financing services in most vulnerable countries – what currently exist; what are the best practices and lessons? What are the barriers to their efficiency and effectiveness; what are the administrative, technical and financial gaps</p> <p>2. Define a fit-for-purpose climate information, early warning and risk financing services for most vulnerable countries – How do they address the key targets of the Paris agreement, Sendai framework and SDGs?</p> <p>3. Define what it will take to support countries establish and maintain a fit-for-purpose climate information and early warning system – How do they align with the minimum benchmark? How do they comprehensively represent the checklist for MHEWS?</p>	<p>information, early warning and risk financing services in most vulnerable countries established;</p> <p>2. Climate information, early warning and risk financing services priorities are defined and prioritized</p> <p>3. The minimum standards of a fit-for-purpose climate information, early warning and risk financing services established;</p> <p>4. The level of support (financial and technical) required for ensuring most vulnerable countries establish and maintain fit-for-purpose climate information, early warning and risk financing services.</p> <p>5. Private sector engagement</p>	<p>establishment and operations of climate information, early warning and risk financing services.</p>
<b>Means of implementation</b>		
<p>1. Identify donor coordination challenges and opportunities to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of fund mobilization, allocation and utilization.</p> <p>2. Leverage national, regional and international sources of funding to advance interventions climate information, early warning and risk financing services.</p>	<p>1. Better understanding of donor coordination challenges and opportunities for improving efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>2. Opportunities for mobilizing finance at scale, enhance coherence and complementarity among donors identified.</p> <p>3. Means of implementation well-defined (could include RfP, SAP, PPF, NAP and other financing vehicles)</p>	<p>A roadmap developed for driving investments in climate information, early warning and risk financing services.</p>

#### IV. Agenda (as of 15 May 2019)

Time	Topic	Presenter	Outline
9:00 – 9:10 (10 mins)	Opening Ceremony	<b>Master of Ceremonies:</b> Ania Grobicki, Deputy Director for Adaptation, GCF	<b>Opening Remarks:</b> Ania Grobicki  <b>Opening Speech:</b> Stefan Schwager, GCF Board member
9:10 – 9:20 (10 mins)	Introductions	<b>Round table of introductions by participants</b>	
9:20 – 9:40 (20 mins)	High-level remarks on	<b>Remarks:</b> H.E. Laouan Magagi	<b>Discussion outline</b> Mobilizing high-level leadership for a coordinated

	leadership, policy and frameworks	Minister, Ministerre de l'Action Humanitaire et de la Gestion des Catastrophes, Niger Hon. Tsukutlane Au Minister of Energy and Meteorology, Lesotho	approach to making widely available robust climate information, early warning and risk financing services in most vulnerable countries (LDCs, Africa and SIDS): - Growing commitment across global, continental and national scales - Call for leadership - informed policy and decision making to ensure climate information, early warning and disaster risk reduction services drive planning
9:40 – 10:20 (30 mins)	Session 1. GCF's conceptual framework for developing the sector strategy and guide	<b>Presenter: (15 mins)</b> Joseph Intsiful, GCF  <b>Q&amp;A (15 mins)</b>	<b>Presentation:</b> Introduction of GCF conceptual framework for developing CIEWDRRS strategy and guide
10:20 – 10:45 (20 mins)	Tea/Coffee Break		
10:45 – 11:45 (60 mins)	Session 2. Building a strong project pipeline - <i>Paris Agreement means of implementation (technology development and transfer and capacity building)</i> - <i>Quantitative enhancement</i> - <i>Qualitative enhancement</i> - <i>Private sector engagement</i>	<b>Moderator:</b> Maxx Dilley, WMO  <b>Commenters: (3-5 minute interventions)</b> Evan Thompson, Jamaica Anne Marie Ramiandrisoa, Madagascar Tessa Kelly, IFRC Filipe Lucio, GFCS John Harding, CREWS  <b>General discussion (30 mins)</b>	<b>Overall objective</b> Elements of a good project design for climate information, early warning and risk reduction services.  <b>Discussion outline</b> Crafting a guide to provide technical support and services for building transformational and paradigm-shifting projects: - Growing demand - Bridging the capacity gaps in both hard and soft infrastructure - Strengthening capacity for transformational projects - Promoting sustainability of interventions
11:45 – 12:45 (60 mins)	Session 3. Means of implementation - <i>Paris Agreement means of implementation (finance)</i> - <i>Complementarity and coherence with other institutions</i>	<b>Moderator:</b> Markus Replik, WMO  <b>Commenters: (3-5 minute interventions)</b> Mabafokeng Mahahabisa, Lesotho Lamin Mai Touray, Gambia Jason Spensley, GCF Prashant Singh, World Bank	<b>Overall objective</b> Elements of GCF strategy and means of implementation to drive investments in climate information, early warning and disaster risk reduction  <b>Discussion outline</b> Crafting a strategy for an effective and efficient means of implementation for

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Country programming including NDCs and NAPs</i></li> <li>- <i>Request for proposal</i></li> </ul>	<p>Maxx Dilley, WMO</p> <p><b>General discussion (30 mins)</b></p>	<p>making climate information, early warning and risk reduction services widely available in most vulnerable (LDCs, Africa and SIDS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Growing demand</li> <li>- Building the business case</li> <li>- Enhancing coherence and complementarity of investments</li> <li>- Leveraging private sector finance, public budgets and public-private partnerships</li> </ul>
12:45 – 13:00 (15 mins)	Closing ceremony	Recap: Joseph Intsiful Closing remarks: Ania Grobicki	Wrap-up and next steps