

# Report on the Consultative Workshop on the National Framework for Climate Services

Presented by

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## **Introduction**

The Global Frame Work of Climate Service (GFCS) needs specific countries' information to constitute the global framework. This Framework is a tool intended to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate information and services. This calls for a national framework for each country, which takes into account specific national needs to ensure national context in the global framework. The Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) in collaboration with Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), under the auspices of the Ministry of Communication is to establish a National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) in Ghana. To do this, wide consultation is important for an informed framework in Ghana. A consultative workshop, which spanned for a period of three days from July 10 - 12, 2019 was done and was participated by stakeholders of climate information in Ghana. The report details key activities undertaken, issues discussed and recommendations. The agenda of the workshop is also attached.

## **Opening ceremony**

The two-day workshop begun with an opening ceremony chaired by the Director General of the Ghana Meteorological Agency. The keynote address was delivered by the Honourable Vincent Odotei Sowah who is the Deputy Minister for Communication and the Member Parliament for La Dadekotopong. The deputy minister iterated the importance of the NFCS and pledged the support of the communication ministry for the exercise. Shorts speeches were delivered by the Director of Science at ECOWAS and the Representative from WMO/GFCS. The Chairman of the occasion gave his closing remarks to end the opening ceremony. The vote of thanks was given by Dr Nana Ama Browne Klutse who is the consultant to work on the NFCS.

## **The workshop plenary session**

Dr Pascal Yaka, the representative from WMO/GFCS gave a detailed presentation on the GFCS and what has been achieved at the global level. He highlighted the need to have National Framework for Climate Service, which was the main reason for the workshop. The GMet made a presentation on existing climate services the agency offers to its numerous users and relevant stakeholders. Some climate services highlighted were daily to seasonal forecast to the general public and relevant stakeholders. The presentation also highlighted the GMet website as a source of climate information and the Rainwatch platform ([www.rainwatch-africa.org](http://www.rainwatch-africa.org)) as online sources of climate information and services. The online Rainwatch platform offers users the opportunity to access climate information for decision making.

## **Group work**

Five groups were randomly formed to discuss service delivery of climate information providers. The discussion focused on challenges of the institutions, gaps and products,

and recommendations for better service delivery. Stakeholder representatives from the five thematic areas participated in the discussions. The table below shows the gaps identified.

Table 1: Gaps in services provided to the stakeholders by climate service providers

<b>Field</b>	<b>Gaps</b>
<b>Climate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Information on marine and sea surface temperature not captured.</li> <li>➤ Lack applications for transmission of climate information to the indigenous people or the users who matter most</li> <li>➤ Late forecast and lack of sub-seasonal forecast at monthly time step</li> <li>➤ Lack of tailor made forecast for the health sector</li> </ul>
<b>Hydro</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Poor nature of drainages systems</li> <li>➤ Poor hydrology services and they have offices only at the regional level - eg automated HSD system functions only at Regional Levels</li> <li>➤ Lack of communication channels</li> <li>➤ Lack of information on aquifers</li> <li>➤ Lack of information on the impact of climate on minor river basin</li> <li>➤ Lack of information on river extinction</li> </ul>
<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No consolidated policy on health and climate change and variability issues</li> <li>➤ Forecast not suitable for the health sector particularly:</li> <li>➤ Lack of forecast on the dry season and also forecast on extreme events</li> <li>➤ Lack of forecast on at the districts and regional level</li> <li>➤ Lack of forecast on tidal waves to the sector</li> </ul>
<b>Water resource management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lack of equipment for monitoring water resources</li> <li>➤ Lack of historical data</li> </ul>
<b>Disaster risk reduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lack of investors</li> <li>➤ Challenges with funding</li> <li>➤ Lack of sensitization on the role of NADMO</li> </ul>

<b>Agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Lack of forecasts for dry season</li> <li>➤ Lack of monitoring platform during the raining season</li> <li>➤ Lack of funds and investment</li> <li>➤ Lack of communication channels</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Recommendation: the seasonal forecast and amount of rainfall expected for the coastal, middle and North is given to VRA, it should be broken down for the fishermen and in addition they give advisory</li> <li>➤ Forecast should come early with number and colour codes</li> <li>➤ Design MoU for collaboration which spell out all their needs</li> </ul>

The second day of the engagement begun by a recap of the gaps and recommendations received at the plenary session by the Consultant - Dr Nana Ama Browne Klutse. The participants of the workshop affirmed all the gaps and recommendations identified.

Most part of day two was dedicated to climate information received from GMet by five key sectors identified by the GFCS as critical areas of focus. The participants were grouped into the areas of their profession to evaluate the information received from GMet, identify their strength, gaps and give recommendation.

The five thematic areas were Water resource management, Health, Agriculture, Disaster risk reduction and climate. Experts from the Ghana Meteorological Agency with expertise in Hydrometeorology, Climate change and Disaster Risk Management, Weather and Communication, Forecasting, and Research and applied meteorology met with each of these groups. The experts visited each of these groups and presented to them what climate information is produced and services offered by GMet for the purposes of meeting the needs of the various sectors. The groups further identified the strengths, gaps and further gave recommendations to GMet to improve what is currently being offered.

A general discussion was opened up for group presentations. The presentation by these groups generated interesting conversation concerning the services received from GMet and while some of the products offered were appreciated by the participants they also identified some gaps and further offered recommendation that could be useful and helpful to GMet to meet their needs.

Furthermore, each group was given a template on the road map of the national framework for climate service of Ghana to fill and provide relevant information that will feed into the national frame for climate services in Ghana. Table 2 presents a collection of strategies and recommendations from the stakeholders.

Table 2: Strategies and recommendations from the stakeholders

<b>Follow up Strategy</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There should be another stakeholder consultative meeting to review the draft framework</li> <li>➤ There should be a deliberate and continuous consultation during the implementation of the framework</li> <li>➤ The final draft should be of the framework should be validated prior to adoption</li> <li>➤ There should be key performance indicators as framework to guide implementation</li> <li>➤ Regular reports should be produced and shared to stakeholders on performance key performance indicators</li> <li>➤ There should be constant communication with stakeholders to receive feedbacks</li> <li>➤ Evaluation workshops should be organized routinely to assess the implementation</li> <li>➤ The final framework should be shared with all stakeholders</li> <li>➤ Monitoring and evaluations mechanism should be put in place as part of the framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There should be a national Climate fund that should be accessible to relevant institutions</li> <li>➤ The framework should be implemented adequately</li> <li>➤ There should be public awareness of the framework</li> <li>➤ The framework should be backed by law</li> <li>➤ Monitoring and evaluation should be enforced to check progressivity of the framework</li> <li>➤ A steering committee for the implementation should be established</li> <li>➤ There should be a deliberate efforts to get the support of high level and political support to provide necessary funding for the implementation</li> <li>➤ The Ghana Meteorological Agency should work on their channels of communication for climate information and services (Website, toll free line)</li> <li>➤ The Ghana Meteorological Agency should improve its climate data collection and make data freely accessible</li> <li>➤ The Ghana Meteorological Agency should include dry season forecast as part of their seasonal forecasts</li> </ul>

After the plenary session, Mr Kofi Asare (Asst. to the Consultant - Remote Sensing and Climate Center, GSSTI) gave a presentation to recap the recommendations from the thematic groups which were considered as key actions identified to be added to the national framework which was well received by participants as an affirmation to the recommendations identified.

The second day ended with closing remarks from Representatives of ECOWAS (Dr. Johnson Boanuh, Director of Environment, ECOWAS Commission) and WMO (Dr. Pascal Yaka, Regional Coordinator of GFCS) who commended participants for their commitment and participation. They further affirmed the importance of the framework, which will help the Ghana Meteorological Agency provide useful and usable climate information for decision making by all stakeholders.

### **User Engagement Forum on 3<sup>rd</sup> day**

As part of the main NFCS workshop activities, a user engagement forum dubbed "*Early Warning - Anticipated Action*" was organized for farmers. Though the workshop focused on farmers of diverse categories, majority of the participants were mango farmers.

In attendance were about 60 participants comprising 25 farmers and 35 stakeholders (i.e stakeholders and the organizers of the workshop). The workshop was held at the Somanya Agriculture Resource center. The top officials at the high table were:

Table 3: Officials and their affiliations at the farmers' workshop

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Dr. Michael Tanu	Director-General of GMet
Dr. Johnson Boanuh	of Environment, ECOWAS Commission, Abuja-Nigeria
Dr. Pascal Yaka	Regional Coordinator of GFCS
Mr. M. L. Bansah	Int. Vice-Chairman, Yilo Krobo Mango Farmers Association, Somanya

The chairman gave an opening remark and the purpose of the workshop with brief messages from the panelist of the high table.

The session continued with an open discussion on the importance of weather and climate services, and challenges to their farming activities. Most of the farmers shared their sentiments on how the weather is very important to their farming activities for their management decisions (flowering and spraying of insecticides). The farmers identified Light FM 90.1 and GTV as their only medium of receiving climate information. They however lamented that the forecast shown on the GTV was hastily done always hence leading to poor understanding by farmers. They also showed concerns on the limited support for the development of the Ghana Meteorological Agency by the government.

### **Conclusion**

Climate service is a key element for GMet, which is the basis and the main goal of NFCS. Considering the weak monitoring and evaluation, data related gaps and challenges of climate information getting to the right stakeholders, the establishment of NFCS in Ghana will go a long way to achieve the development and delivery of climate services and climate knowledge in the country. The importance of the NFCS and the high expectation of it were demonstrated through the workshop.