

## WMO

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), founded in 1950, is a specialized agency of the United Nations for weather, climate, and water. WMO contributes to understanding the impacts of climate variability/change across socio-economic sectors. It also promotes capacity building in the application of meteorological and climatological data and products in assessing the impacts of climate variability/change.

## INSTITUTO METEOROLÓGICO NACIONAL

The National Meteorological Institute of Costa Rica (IMN) is the national scientific-technical institution specialized in weather, climate and water. IMN manages climate data and produces weather and climate forecasts. The Institute also promotes the advancement and application of scientific and academic knowledge in various fields, such as aviation and marine transportation, agricultural production, tourism, prevention of hydro meteorological disasters, civil protection and climate variability and change. With a team of interdisciplinary and highly qualified staff, IMN is committed to the principles of sustainable human development.

## AEMET

AEMET, the State Meteorological Agency, is the National Meteorological Service of Spain. Belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment and with a staff of 1,400, AEMET is a mayor player in the international meteorological scene both in Europe and internationally, within WMO. Particularly, AEMET funds and coordinates cooperation programmes with the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of West Africa and Ibero-America. Cooperation with the Ibero-American NMHSs articulates through the Conference of the Ibero-American Directors of NMHS (CIMHET). The strategic lines of CIMHET are the provision of weather and climate services, the institutional reinforcement and education and training for its partner NMHSs. AEMET has been running this Ibero-American programme for more than 10 years, in a unique example of continuity and perfect alignment with WMO regional priorities and strategies, empowering the recipient NMHSs to establish the main lines and the programming of the activities.

## CONAGUA

CONAGUA is the National Meteorological Service of Mexico under the National Water Commission. Its mandate is to manage and preserve national waters for its sustainable use, and it shares this responsibility with the three tiers of government at State, federal and municipal levels and society in general.

## CIIFEN

CIIFEN is the International Research Center on El Niño which is working since 2003 in Guayaquil, Ecuador. The Center promotes and develops actions to consolidate science-policy interaction and the strengthening of climate and ocean services aiming to contribute on risk management and adaptation to better cope with climate change and variability. CIIFEN works in close coordination with Global Prediction Centers, research community and a wide range of organizations. Currently, CIIFEN in close coordination with the NMHS is performing the demonstration phase as WMO Regional Climate Centre for Western South America.

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# Regional Workshop on Climate Services at the National Level for Latin America

**San José, Costa Rica**  
**28 -30 July, 2014**

## INTRODUCTION

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established in 2009, through a high-level declaration at World Climate Conference-3 organized by World Meteorological Organization (WMO), other United Nations (UN) agencies, Governments and partners to guide the development of climate services around the world. The vision of the GFCS is to enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially for those who are most vulnerable to such risks. This will be achieved through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice. The full value of the GFCS will be realized incrementally through the delivery and use of a multitude of climate services at regional, national and local levels.

Following the ground-work laid by a High Level Taskforce on GFCS, the Sixteenth Session of the World Meteorological Congress, the Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress in 2012, the first Session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services held in July 2013 approved the Implementation Plan of the GFCS and called for its immediate implementation focusing on capacity development and user involvement during the initial period of implementation to support the establishment of climate services in countries and territories in which improvements in the provision of climate services are urgently required.

The GFCS will build upon the following five components or pillars required to address the entire value chain for the production, management, delivery and application of climate information and services in support of decision-making, addressing initially four priority areas (agriculture and food security; water; health; and disaster risk reduction):

- **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 about climate (past, present and future) will be routinely collected, stored

and processed to generate and deliver products and services that inform often complex decision-making across a wide range of climate-sensitive activities and enterprises;

- **Observations and Monitoring:** to ensure that climate observations and other data, including metadata, required to meet the needs of end users are collected, managed, disseminated and its utility assessed;
- **Research, Modeling 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;
- **Coordination and Capacity Development:** to address the mechanisms for coordination and networks needed across information providers and affected communities and capacity development, such as needed to interpret, translate and use climate information to support decision making; identified in the other pillars and, for enabling GFCS-related activities.

To effectively implement all of the pillars of the GFCS from the global to the national levels, consultations involving key stakeholders are needed to agree on an Action Plan to support development and application of Climate Services optimizing the benefit of existing practices, expertise and infrastructure. It is with this background that the GFCS Office in collaboration with the Instituto Meteorológico Nacional of Costa Rica, AEMET and CIIFEN are organizing the Regional Workshop on Climate Services at the National Level for Latin America from 28 to 30 July 2014 in San José, Costa Rica.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- To review the current status of generating climate information in the region and assess specific needs for climate services from sector perspectives (agriculture and food security; water; health; and disaster risk reduction) at the global, regional, national and local levels;
- To review and characterize the current status of climate user interfacing mechanisms and interactions

between climate services providers and users, identify major areas for improvement and recommend effective mechanisms and practices;

- To articulate the capacity building needs for the countries and territories in the region, in terms of mandates, infrastructure as well as human resources, in all the components of the GFCS;
- To discuss and recommend improved arrangements for national observation networks, enhanced research and analysis of national and local climate issues including impacts indicators, improved access and utility of climate data and predictions, sustained operational mechanisms that improve facilitation of the flow of climate information.
- To identify, propose and prioritize, ways to promote community understanding and awareness of climate variability and change, and associated risks, and opportunities for improved climate risk management and products and services.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

This workshop aims to bring together experts from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and the key decision-makers, and practitioners from the initial four priority areas of the GFCS. It will facilitate the identification of appropriate mechanisms and networks to improve and sustain the flow of climate information for different users. Specifically, it should result in: (i) enhanced understanding of the needs for climate services in different user sectors; (ii) clear understanding of capacity development needs to implement the GFCS at regional and national levels; (iii) proposal of climate information distribution chains for Latin America; (iv) strategic guidance on institutional arrangements, partnerships and processes required to operationalize the GFCS at the regional and national level; (v) Regional action Plan for Implementation of Climate Services in Latin America.