

Climate Research for Development in Africa (CR4D) Side-Event

at

UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) to Highlight Research Outputs from the CR4D Postdoc Fellowship

Background

Climate research in Africa is fragmented and not demand-driven. As such, it is not responsive to the user needs, and also needs to be firmly situated within the contexts of Agenda 2063, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. The intensity and frequency of disruptions in natural and socioeconomic systems caused by climate change require African-led demand-driven researches in the areas of mitigation, adaptation, resilience building, as well as capitalizing on emerging opportunities. The Climate Research for Development (CR4D) initiative represents a paradigmatic shift to address these gaps and situate climate research into the broader development context.

The Climate Research for Development (CR4D) is an African-led initiative supported by partnership between the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to strengthen links between climate science research and climate information needs in support of development planning in Africa. The initiative was mandated by the African Climate Conference 2013 (ACC-2013) that was held in Arusha, Tanzania, which brought together more than 300 participants including the African climate scientists, policy makers, climate service providers, and practitioners to discuss the state of African climate science and the existing gaps in climate knowledge. Participants of ACC -2013 recommended the establishment of an African climate research agenda for climate services and development. It was officially launched in Cape Verde by the Third Session of AMCOMET (February 2015).

Following the establishment of the CR4D governing bodies (i.e., the Oversight Board (OB), the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Institutional Collaboration Platform (ICP), the ECA-ACPC partnered with the African Academy of Sciences (The AAS) and DFID under the WISER program to implement and manage a small but potentially scalable research grant mechanism. As part of this mechanism, and through a generous grant from the then DFID, the CR4D initiative disbursed grants to the first cohort of 21 post-doctoral researchers from Benin, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Namibia, Uganda, Kenya, Senegal and Zimbabwe in June 2019. The grants were for an initial period of 12 months, subsequently extended to 18 months to allow for adequate in-depth engagement with the issues under investigation. Funded research focuses on foundational climate science, climate change impacts and policy/advocacy knowledge frontiers. The research initiative is already playing a critical role in mobilizing African climate researchers around a unified climate research agenda to address priority needs of policy makers and vulnerable communities in Africa, in addition to building the capacities of young African climate scientists through cross-regional exchanges, fellowship and secondments.

Despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, all fellowships were successfully implemented to completion. This fellowship contributed much to the scientific knowledge where at least 87 publications in form of journal articles, blogs, policy briefs, book chapters, and others have been published. Moreover, because of the CR4D fellowship, about 50% of the fellows reported promotions and career growth in one form or another while 67% were engaged in other research activities. Additional and new grant funds were secured by several CR4D postdoc fellows during the implementation of the CR4D fellowships.

As the research has now ended, it is imperative that the researchers be accorded, as part of their scientific development, an opportunity to share their work with the scientific community at large, receive comments and advice, and ultimately publish their work in contribution to deepening our understanding of the climate change and development nexus. This was conducted from 21-23 June 2021 in Nairobi-Kenya through an end of research workshop jointly organized by the ACPC, WMO and AAS, and supported by the SAC and ICP.

In this side-event, therefore, activities aimed at promoting WISER-funded CR4D post-doc research outputs will be done for better visibility and thus increasing CR4D own reputation and chances of success in Africa. Moreover, the CR4D will embrace a variety of activities and tools to promote its work, connect with development partners, and engage in scholarly discourse. The format will include presentation, running of video clips, posters, and general discussion.



Partner institutions



**Institutions who have
received the CR4D
Research Grant.**

Donor institution/Programme



Highlights of the Research Outputs from the Climate Research for Development (CR4D) Postdoc Fellowships

“African Pavilion”

11 November 2021

Glasgow, UK



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



Part I: Opening Session

Chair: Mr. Frank Rutabingwa (WISER coordinator, ACPC)



09:00-09:05

Welcoming Remark

Panellists:

Dr. James Murombedzi, *Chief, ACPC-UNECA*



09:05-09:15

Highlight on CR4D initiative

Panellists:

Dr. Yosef Amha, CR4D Researcher, ACPC



09:15-09:25

WISER funded CR4D

Panellists:

Mr. Ken De Souza, Research Manager, FCDO



Part I: Cont. ...

Chair: Mr. Frank Rutabingwa (WISER coordinator, ACPC)



09:25-09:35

CR4D Grant Management at the AAS

Panellists:

Dr. Obed Ogega, Program Officer, AAS



Part II: Presentations of Selected CR4D Research Projects

Chair: Mr. Frank Rutabingwa (WISER coordinator, ACPC)



09:35-09:45

Plasma N₂: Emissions saving through production of low-cost fertilizers using air as a raw material

Panellists:

Dr. Stella Kabiri-Marial, Uganda



Part II: Cont. ...

Chair: Mr. Frank Rutabingwa (WISER coordinator, ACPC)



09:45-09:55

Impact of weather variability on aeroallergens and allergic diseases: implication on public health in Nigeria and adaptation

Panellists:

Dr. Dimphna Ezikanyi, Nigeria



09:55-10:05

The improvement of weather simulations over southern Africa through the modification of boundary layer and microphysics schemes in numerical weather prediction (NWP) models.

Panellists:

Dr. Mary Jane Bopape, South Africa



Part III: Panel Discussion

Chair: Dr. James Murombedzi (Chief, ACPC)



10.05-10.30

Panellists:

- Dr. Joseph Mukabana, WMO, Ethiopia
- Prof. Amadou Gaye, UCAD, Senegal
- Dr. Judy Omumbo, IFS, Kenya
- Ms. Rosalind West, FCDO, UK
- Mr. Mithika Mwenda, PACJA, Kenya



10.30-

Part IV: General Discussion