

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE FOR COP 26 SIDE EVENTS:

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES IN DIFFERENT SECTORS FOR ENHANCED INVESTMENT.

Background:

An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena is the ambition of Africa espoused in Agenda 2063, but the always looming impacts of climate change do not bode well for this ambition. Many countries in Africa frequently suffer from alternating sequence of extremes of climate variations including: floods and droughts, exacerbated by tropical cyclones, oftentimes accompanied with untold suffering of communities. Hence, enhanced investments in the climate information and services value chain is needed to enable countries to adapt to changing climate. However, despite increased awareness of climate change impacts on African economies the public sector funding in climate information service value chain remain low compared to other sectors that are often seen as more urgent and need immediate action while the private sector engagement in CIS on the continent is dismal.

In this regard, it is important to demonstration to policy and decision makers as well as the private sector the Socio-Economic Benefits (SEBs) of Climate Information Services (CIS) by attaching monetary value to the losses incurred because of climate change and benefits accrued when more investment is made in CIS value chain. Demonstrating the socio-economic benefit of climate information services could further help potential users of the services to understand better the use and benefits of seasonal climate forecasts for them to know how and why they should use weather and climate information.

In this regard, the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) developed a framework to assess the economic and social benefits of climate information services in comparison to the costs of investments. The framework builds a business case for investment in CIS showing the positive impacts of integrating climate information into the policy and resource allocation process. In this way, it is easier for policy makers to justify current and future investment in CIS. This can also influence appropriate policies in adaptation and mitigation measures against climate change and extremes in climate variations.

Side Event

The *Socioeconomic Benefit of Climate Information Services side event (SEB)* will showcase the linkages between science and end-users of climate information services and its critical use in achieving resilience, and optimum agricultural productivity on seasonal and long-term basis. The side event will further share the advances in the development of much needed tools for producers of CIS and the end user community involved in the many socioeconomic sectors:

food security and agriculture, water management, disaster management, health, infrastructure, etc.

Objectives:

- to demonstrate the utility of SEBs of CIS in adaptation and resilience building in agriculture and other climate sensitive sectors in Africa.
- To show the potential of cutting-edge products and methodologies which can improve the evidence base for policy formulation for investments in CIS as a strategy for climate change adaptation.
- Provide a platform for exchange and sharing information on the benefits of timely application of climate information, strengthening capacity to improve production, better access and sustainable generation of CIS as a tool for adaptation.

Expected Outcome:

Improved understanding of the importance of climate information services utility in averting climate induced disasters and resilience in climate sensitive economic sectors and enhanced investment on CIS to facilitate faster achievement of sustainable development in Africa.

Side-event 4: SEB of CIS for various sectors (2hr)

Time	Activity	Lead	Chair
5 min	Welcoming	Dr. James M	Frank R.
25 min	Results from WISER SEB study	B. Granganga	
60 min	General Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Mukabana • Prof. Amadou • tbc 		
30 min	Q&A	Dr. James M	