

# CLIMATE RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (CR4D)

“Advancing new frontiers of African climate research to enhance co-production of climate information and services for Development Planning”

## About ClimDev-Africa

*The ClimDev-Africa Programme is an initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). It is mandated at the highest level by African leaders (AU Summit of Heads of State and Government). The Programme was established to create a solid foundation for Africa's response to climate change and works closely with other African and non-African institutions and partners specialised in climate and development.*

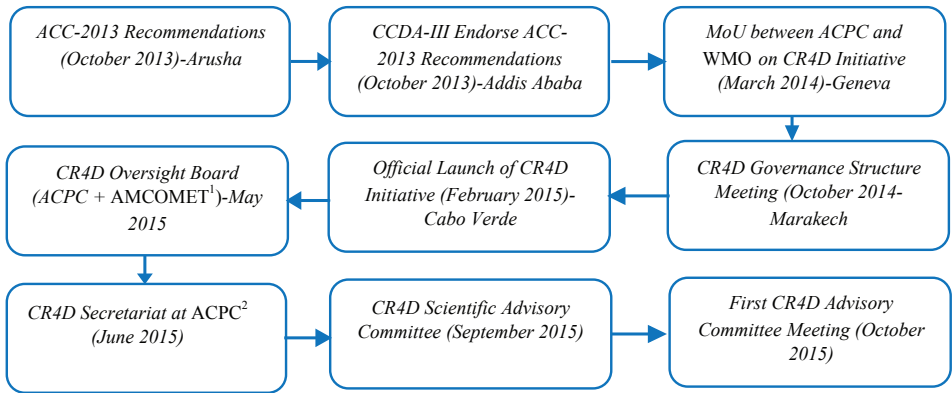
brought together more than 300 participants drawn from top African climate scientists, policy makers, climate service providers, and practitioners to discuss the state of African Climate science and existing gaps in climate knowledge. Participants at the ACC-2013 recommended the establishment of an African Climate Research Agenda for Climate Services and Development (see [http://www.wmo.int/amcomet/sites/default/files/doc/events/acc2013\\_final\\_eclaration.pdf](http://www.wmo.int/amcomet/sites/default/files/doc/events/acc2013_final_eclaration.pdf)) in order to advance new frontiers of African climate research, focusing on four priority areas:

## Background

The Climate Research for Development (CR4D) in Africa initiative was launched to strengthen links between climate science research and climate information needs in support development planning in Africa. CR4D is an African-led initiative supported by partnership between African Climate Policy Center (ACPC) of UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). CR4D is the outcome of the African Climate Conference 2013 (ACC-2013), which was held in Arusha, Tanzania. ACC-2013

1. Creation of co-designed multi-disciplinary research to improve forecast skills and reliability
2. Filling gaps in multi-sectorial and multi-disciplinary data sets for sector-specific vulnerability and impacts assessments
3. Enhancing Africa's scientific and institutional capacities and networks to undertake cutting edge user-drive climate research
4. Fostering effective collaboration and interactions among climate science, services, policy, and practice communities in order to improve mainstreaming of climate services in decision-making.

## CR4D Milestones



## 2. CR4D Goal, Vision and Mission:

**The primary goal** is to create a multi-institutional and multi-stakeholder collaborative platform that mobilizes expertise and resources to facilitate use-inspired climate science research that informs climate change policy and sustainable development planning in Africa. CR4D will create Regional Climate Research Partnerships that involve diverse expertise from the natural, biophysical and social sciences to design research that translates into appropriate and actionable information for policy and sustainable development planning.

**Vision:** Catalyze multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary integrated, demand-driven, climate research and analysis that is responsive to specific user and development planning needs

**Mission:** Create a Pan-Africa Collaborative Platform and Network of African climate science, services, policy, and practice communities as well as development partners and other stakeholders to co-explore, co-design, co-produce and co-communicate climate information and services, thus improving access, quality, and usability and mainstreaming of climate information into Development Planning in Africa.

### Specific Objectives of CR4D

- Enhancing ACPC's links with climate research and operational centers, as well as other

stakeholders and initiatives in order to improve flow of relevant climate information and services for policymaking and development planning

- Promoting and facilitating alliances among climate scientists, service providers, policy makers, and practitioners through a collaborative platform for the co-production of climate information and services
- Fostering multi-institutional and multi-stakeholder, integrated (applied) climate research
- Facilitating cross-disciplinary networking and exchange of expertise within institutions in Africa and their international partners in co-exploring, co-designing, co-producing and co-communicating demand-driven climate information.
- Fostering an enabling environment for pooling and sharing research facilities, resources, and infrastructure among sub-regional, regional and Pan-African institutions in order to enhance quality and availability of climate knowledge and products relevant to specific user-sectors
- Mobilizing and promoting cross-disciplinary strategic capacity development and training in partnership with sub-regional, regional and Pan-Africa institutions and stakeholders

- Promoting and supporting use of climate smart innovations and technologies, including social media, to network and disseminate climate information and services

## CR4D Core Functions

**Core Function 1 (CF1): The Africa Climate Collaboration Platform** to mobilize and promote use-inspired, multi-institutional, multi-stakeholder, and multi-disciplinary applied climate research collaborations, with clear user-need targets, at sub-regional, regional and Pan-Africa level:

**Core Function 2 (CF2): Regional Climate Partnership** to facilitate multi-institutional and multi-stakeholder sharing of climate research resources and expertise in order to enhance co-production of reliable climate information and services for Development Planning:

**Core Function 3 (CF3): Climate-smart innovations, technologies, and decision-translation Tools** to promote and support use of climate smart innovations and technologies, including so-

cial media, to network and disseminate climate information and services: "

**Core Function 4 (CF4): Sustainable Capacity Development and Training** to promote and support strategies for collaborative and sustainable capacity development and training through multi-institutional and multi-stakeholder partnerships. This includes support for strengthening capacities of institutions and stakeholders at national, regional, continental level as well as: " "

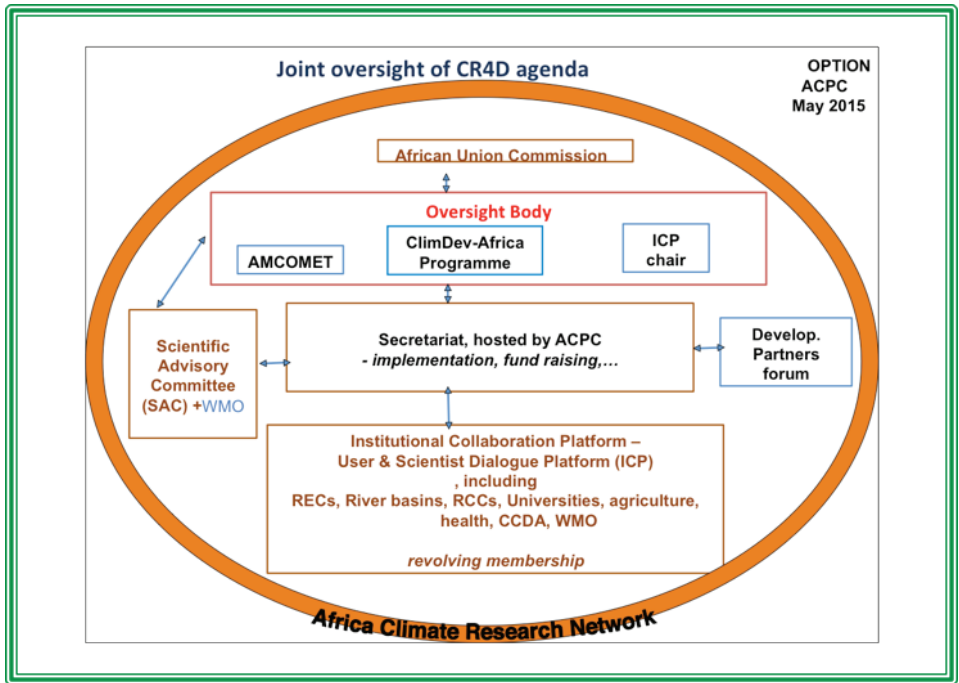
- Identify and mobilize young and budding African climate researchers in social and biophysical sciences around a unified climate research agenda that addresses priority needs of policy-makers and vulnerable communities in Africa;
- Rally all CR4D partners and stakeholders to promote and undertake capacity-building and development of African climate scientists and institutions with cross-regional exchanges and secondments, etc

**Figure 1:** CR4D core areas of collaborations among climate science, services, policy, and practice to co-produce demand-driven climate information



## CR4D Governance Structure

**Figure 2:** Proposed CR4D Governance Structure



### The Secretariat (CR4D Unit)

- Implements CR4D-Africa agenda
- Hosted at the Africa Climate Policy Center of the /United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ACPC/UNECA).
- CR4D Coordinator is responsible for coordinating and managing the day-to-day activities of the Secretariat

### Oversight Body (OB)

- The Oversight Board is comprised of the CR4D founding partners; ACPC/ ClimDev-Africa and AMCOMET. It provides strategic direction and serves as custodian of the CR4D agenda.
- Endorses nominees to the SAC and ICP

### Institutional Collaboration Platform (ICP)

- An important CR4D-decision making body that acts like the General Assembly or Congress, and will be the body that serves as the custodian of CR4D Agenda by making sure that CR4D priorities cuts across science, services, policy and practice
- ICP in collaboration with CR4D Secretariat will take an active role in mobilizing resources for the CR4D Agenda.

### Membership

- Representative of all key stakeholders: Research; Service Providers; Policy, user/practitioners; Civil Society Organizations; NGOs; Development Partners/Agencies; Foundations, etc.

- Permanent membership is proposed for the three CR4D Partners (ACPC, AMCOMET and WMO)
- Permanent membership proposed for RECs,<sup>1</sup> RCCs<sup>2</sup>, and RTCs<sup>3</sup> that provide the institutional mechanisms to mainstream the CR4D agenda into policy.
- Participation could be flexible according to the themes being addressed by the ICP (inclusive participation - representing stakeholders from all relevant sectors – researches, user community and service providers)

## Scientific Advisory Council (SAC)

- Implementing the Institutional Collaboration Platform's recommended priority research agenda.
- Serving as the caretaker of the research agenda by filtering stakeholder identified priorities, and ensuring they are consistent and aligned to funding priorities and principle of equity; - regional, gender, and youth (early career) balance.
- Should include representatives of both climate and social sciences and is to provide strategic guidance on-going climate-related research in Africa and relevant international research.
- Developing and Updating a database/inventory of African Climate Research Institutions and climate and related experts/expertise including those involved with development sectors as well as private sector and NGOs
- Lead periodic gap and needs assessment, including where and whether repositories of information/data of previous and ongoing activities are available and accessible.

## Membership

- Representatives of key stakeholders: Climate Science, Climate Services, Climate Policy, and possible Practitioners
- Regional balance should be observed at all times by ensuring that at least one climate scientist or social scientist represents East, West, Central, South, and North Africa in as much as possible.

## CR4D Grants' Review Sub-Committee

- Will review CR4D grant/project proposals with coordination by the secretariat. It will in most cases involve members of the SAC, and will be constituted on ad-hoc basis by the SAC chair in consultation with the secretariat.
- Its composition will be flexible, but should at least meet the following criteria; - (i) three (3) climate scientists, (ii) three (3) social scientists or experts who are engaged with user communities, and (iii) two (2) reviewers appointed by the funding agency/donor; in consultation with the secretariat.

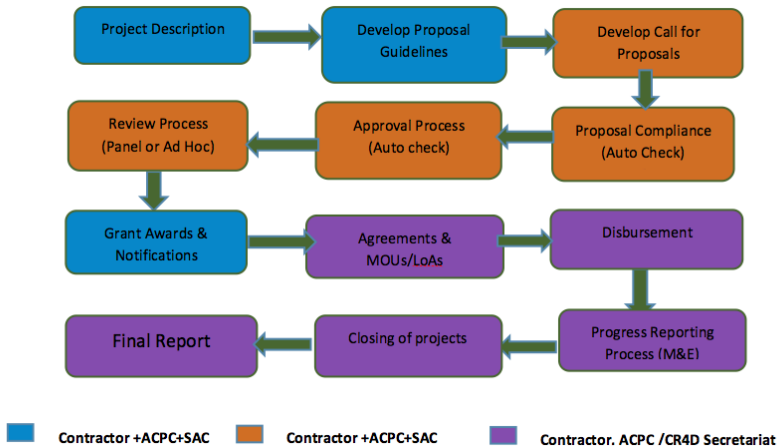
## CR4D Editorial Sub-Committee

- The SAC is also tasked with coordinating editorial and peer reviews of papers for publication in the soon to be launched, African Journal of Climate Science, Services and Policy (AJCSSP)
- AJCSSP will be published three times a year, each publication focusing on climate science, climate services and climate policy.
- The SAC Chair, in consultation with the secretariat and the other relevant CR4D stakeholders, will constitute the JACSSS Editorial Board.

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1 RECs: Regional Economic Communities  
 2 RCCs: Regional Climate Centers  
 3 RTCs: Regional Technology Centers

## Proposed CR4D Grants Management Framework



### The Donor Forum

- Meeting of multiple donors interested to support a unified climate research agenda in Africa;
- Ad-hoc meetings called as needed (on the side lines of major international forums/conferences) to coalesce development partners around the needs of the CR4D Agenda.

### Africa Climate Network (AfrCN)

This is a coalition of not only African researchers and scientists working on climate but also international researchers directly involved in climate research, services and policy in Africa. AfrCN will play three critical roles; -

- Mobilize young and budding African climate researchers around a unified climate research agenda that addresses priority needs of policy-makers and vulnerable communities in Africa;
- Build the capacity of African climate scientists with cross-regional exchanges and secondments, etc
- A source of talent for the selection of members of the SAC

### CR4D Partners and Participating Institutions

- Sponsoring Institutions: ACPC, AMCOMET, WMO, GFCS
- African and International Research Institutions
- African and International Academic Institutions
- National and Regional Climate Application and Operation Institutions
- Government Institutions
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Development Agencies
- Civil Society Organizations

### Potential Donors

- A range of African as well as international donors are expected to fund the work of CR4D Africa.