



ICPAC
IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE FIFTIETH GREATER HORN OF AFRICA CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (GHACOF 50)

VENUE: SERENA HOTEL, KIGALI RWANDA

DATE: 27–28 AUGUST 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

Since 1996 an innovative process known as the Regional Climate Outlook Forum (RCOF) has been running in many parts of the world aimed at providing consensus seasonal climate guidance to reduce climate-related risks in support of sustainable development efforts of the specific regions. RCOFs were initiated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Climate Information and Prediction Services (CLIPS) project in collaboration with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), regional institutions and other international organizations. The first meeting was held in 1996 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. RCOFs gained momentum as a regional response to the major 1997–1998 El Niño event, with the first Southern Africa Climate Outlook forum in September 1997. The first Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF1) was organized by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) then known as Drought Monitoring Centre (DMC), in Nairobi, Kenya for the March to May (MAM) 1998 rainfall season in February 1998. The main goal of RCOFs is to provide consensus regional seasonal climate outlooks for applications in key socio-economic sectors in support of resilience building for sustainable development. ICPAC in collaboration with partners has so far organized forty-nine GHACOFs.

The Fiftieth Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook (GHACOF 50) will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 27 to 28 August 2018 at Serena Hotel as jointly organized by ICPAC in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). It will be held within the framework of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) regional strategy for mainstreaming climate information in key socio-economic sectors for sustainable development. Its theme will be ***“Promoting Gender-Sensitive Climate Services”***.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of GHACOF 50 will be to:

- a) Review lessons/experiences from the use of the products provided during GHACOF49;
- b) Develop consensus regional climate outlook for the October to December 2018 season;
- c) Formulate mitigation strategies to the implications of consensus regional climate outlook on the key Socio-economic sectors in the GHA region;

- d) Understand the gender-specific impacts of climate i.e. user needs and service provision strategies for gender-sensitive climate services; and
- e) Provide a regional interaction platform for decision makers, climate scientists, research scientists as well as users of climate information.

3. PARTICIPATION

The forum will bring together climate scientists, researchers, and users from key socio-economic sectors, governmental and non-governmental organizations, development partners, decision-makers, and civil society among other stakeholders. Users specific parallel workshops including Agriculture and Food Security, Water Resources, Energy, Health, Livestock, Media and Disaster Risk Management will be organized during the forum.

The forum is open to all stakeholders including climate scientists from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, farmers, universities, research institutions and regional and international organizations engaged in climate prediction and applications as well as users from various socio-economic sectors. Regional and international, Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations will also be present.

The forum will be preceded by capacity building training workshop for climate experts from the NMHSs of the ICPAC Member States to be held at ICPAC, Nairobi, Kenya from 20 to 25 August 2018.

4. STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

The key stakeholders include the following National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), i.e., Institut Géographique du Burundi Agence National de la Météorologie de Djibouti, Eritrea Meteorological Service, National Meteorological Services Agency of Ethiopia, Kenya Meteorological Department, Rwanda Meteorological Agency, Somalia Meteorological Services, South Sudan Meteorological Services, Sudan Meteorological Authority, Tanzania Meteorological Agency, Uganda National Meteorological Authority, and international partner organizations such as WMO, The Department for International Development (DFID), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), African Development Bank, WMO Global Producing Centres of long-range forecasts, World Bank, and Met Office of the United Kingdom, among others.

5. WORKING LANGUAGE

English will be the working language for the forum.

6. PARTICIPATION SPONSORSHIP

Participants are expected to sponsor themselves, however, there will be limited sponsorship for some needy cases. All participants are expected to complete and e-mail back the registration downloaded from ICPAC website: www.icpac.net. The conference package will be covered by ICPAC for all participants.

For More Information on GHACOF-50, contact us, through e-mail: ghacof@icpac.net.