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REGIONAL INTEGRATION



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REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES FOR GREATER HORN OF AFRICA

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FOREWORD



-  H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu
-  Executive Secretary
-  Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region is among the most climate-vulnerable in the world. Our countries face recurring droughts, devastating floods, heat extremes, and shifting rainfall patterns that continue to erode livelihoods, strain water and food systems, and trigger displacement and conflict. These hazards, compounded by fragile ecosystems and high dependence on climate-sensitive sectors, pose significant risks to human security and sustainable development across the Greater Horn of Africa.

IGAD and its Member States have long recognised the urgency of tackling these threats through collective, forward-looking action. The IGAD Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Plan provides a framework for building resilience and fostering climate-smart growth. The IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) has enhanced coordination of drought preparedness and disaster risk reduction across borders. Furthermore, the IGAD Vision 2050 sets an ambitious course for a peaceful, prosperous, and climate-resilient region. These instruments, together with national policies, reflect our shared determination to transform climate risks into opportunities for sustainable development.

The Regional Framework for Climate Services (RFCS) Strategic and Action Plan 2026–2030 represents a critical mechanism to operationalise this vision. By improving access to reliable climate information, harmonising observation and monitoring systems, and fostering innovation in forecasting and applications, the RFCS will strengthen regional and national capacities to anticipate and manage climate-related risks. It will also promote inclusive partnerships, enabling governments, communities, and development actors to co-produce and use climate services that inform planning, policy, and investment decisions.

As IGAD, we are committed to ensuring that this Framework advances regional priorities by embedding climate services into sectors such as agriculture and food security, water, health, energy, disaster risk reduction, environment, peace and security, infrastructure and transport, among others. Its implementation will not only support adaptation and resilience but also underpin long-term stability, integration, and prosperity for the people of our region.




I commend the collaborative efforts of our Member States, partners, technical institutions, and dedicated staff of IGAD climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) in developing this Plan. Together, we can build a climate-resilient Greater Horn of Africa.

H.E. Dr Workneh Gebeyehu,

Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

FOREWORD



-  H.E. Veronica M. Nduva, CBS
-  Secretary General
-  East African Community (EAC)

The East African Community (EAC) continues to face profound challenges arising from climate change and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Prolonged droughts, devastating floods, erratic rainfall patterns, and rising temperatures have disrupted agriculture, undermined food and water security, damaged critical infrastructure, and threatened the livelihoods of millions of our citizens. These impacts are not confined within national boundaries; they are inherently transboundary in nature, affecting communities, ecosystems, and economies across the entire region.

Recognising the urgency of these challenges, the EAC has put in place several strategies and frameworks to guide coordinated regional action. The EAC Climate Change Policy and Strategy provides a roadmap for strengthening climate resilience and promoting low-carbon development. The EAC Meteorological Development Strategy and Implementation Plan seeks to modernise meteorological infrastructure, strengthen observation and forecasting capabilities, and ensure that climate information is effectively integrated into decision-making across sectors. In addition, the EAC Vision 2050 and related development blueprints emphasise sustainable natural resource management and regional cooperation as key pillars for building long-term resilience. It is in this context that the Regional Framework for Climate Services (RFCS) Strategic and Action Plan 2026–2030 assumes critical importance. By supporting the co-production, tailoring, and dissemination of climate services, the RFCS will strengthen the ability of EAC Partner States to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to climate risks. Specifically, the Strategic Plan will: Reinforce regional and national efforts to improve climate observations, data management, and forecasting systems; Enhance coordination and collaboration across institutions, sectors, and Partner States; Build the capacity of users and providers of climate services to ensure climate information is demand-driven, accessible, and actionable; and Align with and complement existing EAC strategies, helping translate policy commitments into actionable and tangible people-centered outcomes.

As the EAC, we strongly believe that regional solidarity, scientific innovation, and inclusive partnerships are indispensable in addressing the shared threat of climate change. The RFCS Strategic and Action Plan offers a practical mechanism to harmonise efforts across the region, bridge the gap between science and policy, and deliver climate services that directly support sustainable development and resilience-building in East Africa.

On behalf of the EAC Secretariat, I commend the efforts of our Partner States, regional institutions, and development partners in shaping this Framework. Its successful implementation will be vital in safeguarding the prosperity, resilience and well-being of current and future generations in East Africa.

A handwritten signature in green ink, reading "Veronica M. Nduva".

H.E. Veronica M. Nduva, CBS

Secretary General, East African Community (EAC)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



-  Dr Abdi Fidar
-  Ag. Director
-  IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre

The development of the Regional Framework for Climate Services (RFCS) Strategic and Action Plan (2026–2030) has been made possible through the collective effort, commitment, and vision of many institutions and individuals.

We wish to first recognise the political leadership and guidance provided by the Ministers responsible for meteorological services from IGAD and EAC Member States, whose unwavering support has anchored this process in regional and national priorities. Special appreciation goes to H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary of IGAD, and H.E. Veronica M. Nduva, CBS, Secretary General of the East African Community, for their stewardship in advancing regional climate resilience. We also acknowledge the continued encouragement of the African Union, which provides the overarching continental framework for climate action and integration.

The realization of this Framework would not have been possible without the financial support from development partners, in particular the 11th European Development Fund through the Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) Programme, and the Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) project, led by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT with funding from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank.

We are equally grateful for the technical guidance and partnership of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). We extend our gratitude to Prof. Celeste Saulo, Secretary General of WMO, for her leadership; WMO Regional Office for Africa and Sub-Regional Office for Eastern and Central Africa, whose support has been instrumental throughout this process. Special thanks also go to the Directors and staff of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSS) of IGAD and EAC Member States, and to the dedicated staff of ICPAC, whose technical contributions and commitment have been invaluable.

We further acknowledge the role of enablers and co-producers, including the IGAD Divisions and Specialised Institutions, EAC Divisions, United Nations agencies, NORCAP, regional research and academic institutions, humanitarian organisations, and development partners, whose collaboration ensured that the voices of multiple sectors were integrated. Stakeholders and practitioners from agriculture and food security, livestock, disaster risk management, water, energy, health, environment, infrastructure and transport, and peace and security enriched the process with their insights and user needs, ensuring that the Plan is truly demand-driven and inclusive.

To all who contributed their expertise, resources, and time—this Framework is a testament to your shared commitment to building a resilient and climate-informed Greater Horn of Africa-IGAD and EAC Regional Economic Communities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Abdi Fidar'.

Dr Abdi Fidar

Ag. Director, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre

ACRONYMS

AA	Anticipatory Action
ACMAD	African Center of Meteorological Applications for Development
AU	African Union
ClimSA Intra-ACP	Climate Services and Related Applications Programme
CSIS	Climate Services Information System
EAC	East African Community
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EAHW	East Africa Hazards Watch
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GFCs	Global Framework for Climate Services
GHA	Greater Horn of Africa
GESI	Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion
GHACOF	Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum
IBF	Impact-Based Forecasting
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ITU	International Communication Union
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
NCOF	National Climate Outlook Forum
NFCs	National Framework for Climate Services
NMHSs	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RFCS-GHA	Regional Framework for Climate Services in the Greater Horn of Africa
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UIP	User Interface Platform
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
WFP	World Food Programme
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

GLOSSARY

Anticipatory Action (AA) – Actions taken ahead of a predicted hazardous event to prevent or reduce impacts on lives and livelihoods and humanitarian needs before they fully unfold or its most acute impact are felt.

Climate Services – Provision of climate information to assist decision-making in climate-sensitive sectors.

ClimSA Programme – Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications Programme, supporting climate service capacity.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) – Strategies to minimize vulnerability and exposure to hazards.

Early Warning Systems (EWS) – Systems that detect and communicate potential hazards in advance to prompt action.

Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) – Approach ensuring climate services address needs of all social groups including marginalised and most vulnerable groups such as women, children, elderly people, and people with disabilities.

Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) – WMO-led initiative to improve climate services for decision-making globally.

Impact-Based Forecasting – Weather or climate forecasts linked to potential impacts, aiding targeted response.

National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) – Country-level structure to deliver climate services, aligned with the GFCS and RFCS initiatives.

Regional Framework for Climate Services (RFCS) – Regional mechanism aligning with GFCS and NFCS to coordinate climate service development, delivery, and use at regional level.

Resilience – Ability of communities, systems, or sectors to anticipate, absorb, and recover from climate shocks.

Seasonal Forecast – Climate predictions over a period of months, often used in agriculture, water, and health sectors.

Transboundary Issues – Challenges e.g., drought, floods, resource conflicts spanning multiple countries.

User Interface Platform (UIP) – Mechanism or forum connecting climate information providers with users for co-production of services.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional Framework for Climate Services for the Greater Horn of Africa (RFCS-GHA) is a strategic mechanism designed to coordinate, enhance and deliver tailored climate services across the 11 countries of the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA):- Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

With over 500 million people residing in a region highly vulnerable to climate variability and extremes, the RFCS-GHA seeks to act as a collaboration platform for improved climate risk management, decision-making and resilience building across the region.

Grounded in the World Meteorological Organisation's Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), the RFCS-GHA aligns with five key pillars:- Observations and Monitoring, Research and Modelling, Climate Services Information System (CSIS), User Interface Platforms (UIPs) and Capacity Development. These pillars underpin a comprehensive approach that integrates climate science into priority sectors like agriculture, disaster risk reduction, health, energy and water.

The RFCS-GHA is a collaboration between ICPAC (as the Regional Climate Centre) and the two Regional Economic Communities in Eastern Africa with Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East Africa Community (EAC) providing political endorsement and technical backbone for implementation.

The climate services ecosystem in the GHA region is also composed of other key organisations operating at the regional and/or transboundary level, including international organisations, humanitarian agencies, research institutes and universities.

The RFCS-GHA aims to address these fragmented climate governance across the region, limited data sharing and collaboration, inadequate forecasting infrastructure, and under-resourced local institutions.

Following extensive baseline assessment and stakeholder consultations conducted between February and June 2025, key challenges and opportunities were identified to be considered in the RFCS-GHA, including:

- Institutional and governance fragmentation and the need for better coordination and collaboration
- Limited data sharing, particularly transboundary data
- Leverage existing regional platforms
- Inadequate early warning systems and a need to invest in Impact-Based Forecasting (IBF) systems
- Link climate products and services to actionable response mechanisms and decision-making protocols
- Weak integration of climate services into national planning
- Improve GHACOF outputs by restructuring the User Interface Platform (UIP) to emphasise regional/transboundary relevance
- Define regional research priorities under RFCS-GHA to guide innovation and service improvement
- Support low-capacity countries without duplicating strong national efforts, ensuring equitable regional strengthening.

The RFCS-GHA vision is for 'A resilient Region that can better anticipate and manage the risks and harness opportunities arising from climate variability and change for sustainable development'.

The RFCS-GHA is underpinned by the following core values: Coordination and Collaboration; User-Driven, Evidence-Based; Sustainability; Transparency and Accountability; Integrity; Gender, Equality and Social Inclusion; Reflexive and Adaptive.

The RFCS-GHA governance structure consists of:

- The Inter-REC Policy Committee
- The Inter-REC Steering Committee
- The Secretariat
- Cross-Sectoral Technical Group
- Technical Working Groups for each of the six priority sectors – Agriculture, Conflict and Security, DRM, Energy, Health and Water; One Technical Working Group for the NMHSS

In alignment with global, continental, and regional strategies (e.g., SDGs, Sendai Framework, African Union Climate Strategy, IGAD and EAC development plans), the RFCS-GHA is positioned as a transformative tool to build a resilient, informed and climate-smart Greater Horn of Africa.

The RFCS-GHA Action Plan defines the strategic goal, objectives and operational activities to be implemented through the Framework. The RFCS-GHA overarching strategic goal is to 'Create effective coordination mechanisms for Implementing RFCS-GHA'.

The RFCS-GHA strategic objectives are:

1. Actualize RFCS governance, operational structures and sustainability – Covers all the activities required to develop and implement the RFCS e.g. setting up of the various governance committees and units, formalise regional collaborations and revise key RFCS-related strategies e.g. resource mobilization and MEL framework.
2. Support member states in establishing and implementing climate services across the NFCSs strategic pillars – This strategic objective encompasses all the activities focusing on member states in supporting the development and implementation of their NFCSs across all the GFCS strategic pillars.
3. Strengthen and harmonize regional observations and monitoring systems for improved climate services delivery – Covers the activities on high-quality historical climate data and drivers of regional climate variability and change, regional data infrastructure, expanding existing networks and regional data standards and quality control protocols.
4. Strengthen (interdisciplinary) research, modelling and innovation in climate services – Focuses on understanding multi-timescale drivers of climate variability, enhance accuracy of climate forecasting and operational efficiency, enhance sub-seasonal to decadal forecasting systems for operational support and develop expertise on emerging technologies and innovations.
5. Enhance the mechanism to access, manage and process data and generate and communicate climate information and sector-specific products – Covers a range of activities including facilitating evidence-based decision-making in climate sensitive sectors, support anticipatory action, enhance sectoral planning and coordinated responses amongst stakeholders, upgrade HPC infrastructure, mainstream GESI dimensions and approaches to climate services, etc.
6. Enhance the access and usability of regional climate services through User Interface Platforms (UIPs) – Focuses on all activities related to co-production and feedback mechanisms.
7. Strengthen the capacity building of regional stakeholders to provide and use climate services – Covers the activities on enhancing the capacity of climate information users across key sectors.

The RFCS-GHA Action Plan also includes a Risk Matrix, a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework, a Communication Strategy and a Resource Mobilization Strategy.

The total estimated budget required to implement the RFCS-GHA between 2026-2030 is of 38.7 million USD.

01

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1. Background to the RFCS

A Regional Framework for Climate Services (RFCS) is a mechanism designed to coordinate, facilitate and strengthen collaboration among regional institutions to improve the development, delivery and use of climate services in that region.

It aims to address the diverse user needs for climate services, which no single organization can manage. This requires unprecedented collaboration across political, functional, and disciplinary boundaries.

A RFCS is the regional equivalent of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) set out by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 2009. The GFCS is mandated to develop, provide an application of science-based climate information to support decision-making in climate-sensitive sectors focusing on developing and delivering services in five targeted areas - agriculture and food security, Disaster risk reduction, Health, Water, and Energy - which present the most immediate opportunities for bringing benefits to human safety and wellbeing.

The GFCS model is expected to be implemented at global (through the GFCS), regional (through RFCS) and at national level through National Frameworks for Climate Services (NFCS). These three levels of operations follow similar aims and structures and are expected to be implemented and complement each other from the global down to the national level.

RFCS focus on the implementation of key components of climate services at the regional level, aligned with the five functional components (or pillars) of the GFCS (Figure 1):

- Observations and monitoring: To ensure that climate observations and other data necessary to meet the needs of end users are collected, managed, and disseminated and supported by relevant metadata.
- Research, modelling, and prediction: To foster research towards continually improving the scientific quality of climate information, providing an evidence base for the impacts of climate change and variability and for the cost-effectiveness of using climate information.
- Climate services information system (CSIS): The mechanism through which information about climate (past, present, and future) is routinely collected, stored, and processed to generate products and services that inform decision-making across a wide range of climate-sensitive activities and enterprises.
- User interface platforms (UIP): A structured means for users, climate researchers and

climate information providers to interact at all levels.

- Capacity development: To address the capacity development requirements identified in the other pillars and more broadly, the basic requirements for enabling any GFCS-related activities to occur.

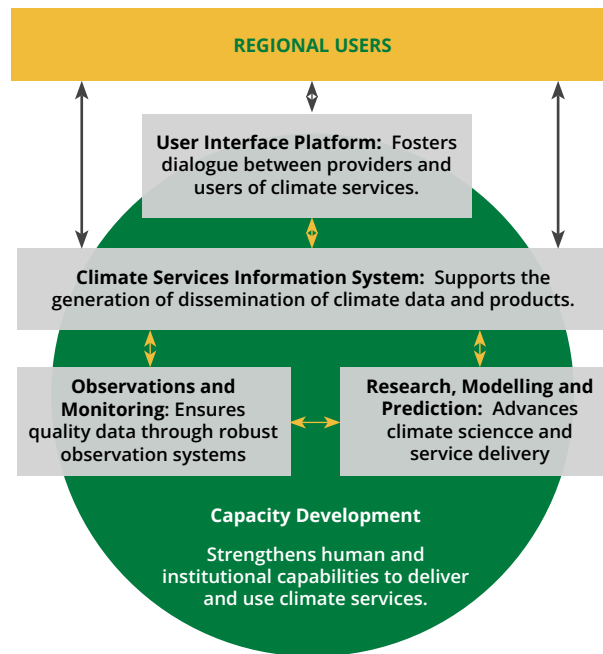


Figure 1 - The GFCS Strategic Pillars

1.2. Greater Horn of Africa regional context

In the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) implementing an RFCS offers specific benefits over the current approach to climate services, such as improving the coordination and collaboration amongst key institutions involved in the production, dissemination and use of climate information and services in the GHA.

According to the WMO, in Eastern Africa it is envisaged that the RFCS for the GHA (RFCS-GHA) will be jointly spearheaded by the IGAD Regional Climate Centre hosted at Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) as an RCC and the Regional Economic Communities in GHA - the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC) - to ensure political alignment, financial support and endorsement.

The RFCS-GHA region covers 11 countries: Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda; with a total population of more than 420 million inhabitants.

The region has experienced mixed economic

performance with countries like Kenya, Ethiopia, and Rwanda showing increased growth in recent years. Nonetheless, agriculture remains the backbone of the region's economy, with many countries relying heavily on crop and livestock production. The region produces coffee (especially in Ethiopia and Uganda), tea (Kenya), maize, sorghum, cassava, and fruits.

Livestock farming is important in countries like Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. However, economic challenges such as high poverty rates, inequality, and unemployment remain persistent. GHA is also rich in natural resources e.g. oil, minerals, and fisheries and a major global tourism destination with its rich wildlife, historical and cultural sites and the coastline and beaches.

GHA is one of the most ethnically diverse regions in the world, with hundreds of distinct ethnic groups. For example, Ethiopia is home to over 80 ethnic groups, while Kenya has more than 40. Ethnic diversity influences social dynamics and often plays a role in political and economic structures. The region is linguistically diverse, with several indigenous languages spoken. Common languages include Swahili (widely spoken in Kenya, Tanzania, and parts of Uganda), Amharic (Ethiopia), Somali (Somalia), and Arabic (in parts of Sudan and Djibouti). English is also an official language in several countries, particularly those with a colonial history.

The region is politically diverse, with a mix of democratic governments and fragile states. It includes countries that have been recognised by the World Bank as experiencing conditions of fragility, conflict, or violence, therefore classified within the context of fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCS). GHA is also home to several regional organizations aimed at promoting cooperation and addressing issues like trade, security, and development including IGAD and EAC.

IGAD was formally established in 1996, succeeding the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD), which had been created a decade earlier in 1986 in the wake of the severe droughts and famines that struck the Horn of Africa in the early 1980s.

Its primary focus was to foster regional cooperation to combat drought and desertification—critical environmental challenges threatening livelihoods across the region. As regional challenges evolved, so too did the institution. In 1996, member states adopted the Agreement Establishing IGAD, thereby expanding its mandate to include:

- Economic cooperation
- Political and security collaboration; and
- Developmental integration.

IGAD has eight member states: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

The EAC was established as an Intergovernmental Organization in 1967 aimed at fostering economic cooperation and integration across East Africa. It ceased to operate in 1977 but was revived in 2000 with the mandate to promote and protect fair trade and providing for consumer welfare in the Community through:

- Enhancing the welfare of the people in the Community
- Enhancing the competitiveness of Community enterprises in world markets by exposing them to competition within the Community
- Creating an environment which is conducive to investment in the Community
- Bringing the Community's competition policy and practice in line with international best practices
- Strengthening the Partner States' role in relevant international organizations.

EAC has eight member states: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Somalia.

Different countries across the two RECs are served by IGAD RCC (henceforth referred to as the RCC) hosted by ICPAC (Figure 2).



Figure 2 - The 11 countries served by ICPAC as an RCC

The GHA region faces significant challenges related to:

- The impacts of climate change and variability particularly of extreme events such as drought and floods that affect water, food security and overall livelihoods. There are also emerging impacts such as increased risk of heat waves as well as cold spells and frost in certain areas of the region.
- Food security challenges due to dependency on rain-fed agriculture, extreme events and political instability.
- Health challenges due to poverty and inequality levels and inadequate provision of healthcare systems. Existing and emerging health threats such as epidemics and climate-sensitive diseases are also prevalent and affect both human and ecological systems (e.g. livestock).
- Environmental degradation leading to competition over scarce resources.
- Low education levels limit adaptive capacity and perpetuate intergenerational poverty.
- Limited and poor infrastructure such as water and electricity supply and roads in many parts of the region also hinders development.

1.3. Climate-related risks and projected changes in the Greater Horn of Africa

The region includes a mix of climates, with arid and semi-arid zones in the east (e.g. Djibouti, Somalia, and parts of Sudan), tropical climates around the equator (e.g. Uganda, Kenya), and temperate climates in the highlands (e.g. Ethiopia, Kenya). Some areas are extremely prone to frequent and severe droughts, while others experience regular heavy rainfall leading to flooding.

Severe drought and flooding contributed to extensive displacement across the region in 1993, 1999, 2005, 2011 and 2015; with earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis, wildfires and high winds having similarly contributed to displacement over the last fifty years .

The region is also affected by consecutive extreme events (with compounded risks) such as the historic 2020-2023 drought (with five failed rainy seasons) followed by the 2023-2024 El Niño and related flood events which displaced hundreds of thousands and damaged crops, livelihoods and critical systems (e.g. water, sanitation and hygiene) .

Projected changes in climate will exacerbate many of the challenges already faced across the region.

At 2°C and 3°C of global warming level (GWL) above pre-industrial levels, mean annual temperature in the region are projected to increase by 1.1°C and 2.1 °C warmer than the 1994-2005 average with the highest increases expected over the northern and central parts of the GHA region .

The number of potentially lethal heat days per year is projected to increase to around 50–120 days at a GWL of 2.5°C and up to 150–350 days under a GWL 4.4°C with largest increases in coastal areas . This will lead to greater exposure to heat stress which can impact human and ecological systems and potentially increase heat-related mortality⁵.

An increase in mean annual rainfall is also projected particularly in the Eastern parts of the region. Heavy precipitation and pluvial flooding events are also projected to increase over the GHA region at a GWL of 2°C and higher.

An increase in average tropical cyclones wind speeds and associated heavy precipitation is also expected particularly in the Southern part of the region. Changes in rainfall patterns can lead to further weather-related displacements, migration and impact infrastructure and livelihoods⁵.

Drought frequency, duration and intensity are projected to increase in Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Tanzania but no change or even a decrease is projected for Kenya, Uganda and the Ethiopian Highlands.

Tropical cyclones making landfall are projected to decrease but have more intense rainfall and higher wind speeds at increasing GWL.

Overall, the region faces compounding climate risks—including declining food and water security, health burdens, economic and biodiversity losses, and rising conflict and displacement—that will exacerbate with projected changes.

1.4. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis

A SWOT analysis to help identify specific strengths (internal advantages within the region), weaknesses (internal limitations), opportunities (external factors), and threats (external challenges) to the development and implementation of the RFCS-GHA is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats in the GHA region.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established Regional and National Institutions: ICPAC, IGAD, EAC and NMHS provide a strong foundation for collaboration. • Support from Development Partners: Intergovernmental Organizations, humanitarian agencies, donors and NGOs actively involved. • Improvement of science and advanced technical knowledge: Use of AI, modelling, remote sensing, mobile applications, and digital forecasting tools. • Existing Coordination Efforts: Existing and ongoing regional and cross-border dialogues, early warning initiatives (e.g. EW4ALL), weather and climate data (e.g. SOFF) and DRM structures. • Multi-sectoral Collaboration Potential: Health, agriculture, water, and energy sectors starting to integrate in some situations (e.g. One Health). • Community and Stakeholder Awareness: Increasing grassroots engagement, smart agriculture pilots, and local knowledge incorporation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Coordination and Institutional Gaps: Fragmentation across sectors; weak legal, governance and policy frameworks. • Inadequate Data and Forecasting Infrastructure: Limited real-time and meteorological data, historical records, and socio-economic and impact data. • Short-Term Funding Cycles: Reliance on donor-driven, non-sustainable funding. • Implementation Gaps: Strong plans exist, but execution lags due to bureaucracy and poor monitoring. • Weak Local Capacity: Shortage of skilled personnel, limited training, underfunded local institutions. • Ineffective Communication: Scientific information not reaching communities in usable formats; low trust and feedback mechanisms. • Fragmented Policy Implementation: Poor integration of DRR and climate policy into national development planning. • Infrastructure Deficits: Poor health infrastructure, limited power supply, aging weather equipment.
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Frameworks and Protocols: Opportunity to harmonize data sharing, surveillance systems, and risk reduction. • Scaling up of Climate Finance: GCF, adaptation funds, insurance tools, and bankable project development. • Advancing Technology: Expanded use of AI, ICT, telemetry systems, and mobile-based early warning dissemination. • Basin-Level and Cross-Border Governance: Push for shared natural resource management (e.g. water, livestock). • Public-Private Partnerships: Potential to bring in innovation, funding, and infrastructure support. • Youth Engagement and Capacity Building: Emerging interest in climate science and local innovation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worsening Climate Hazards: Increased frequency/severity of droughts, floods, heatwaves, pests. • Resource Conflicts and climate-induced migration: Rising competition over land, water, and grazing—often crossing national boundaries. • Dependence on External Donors: Without national investment, resilience remains fragile. • Political Instability: Hinders continuity of climate programs and financing. • Cross-Sector Shocks: Compound crises from climate, health (disease outbreaks), and food insecurity. • Limited consideration of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge and Public Distrust: Reduces the effectiveness of forecasts use and response.



02

BASELINE ASSESSMENT AND STAKEHOLDERS' CONSULTATIONS

2.1. Conducting the baseline assessment and stakeholders' consultations

The baseline assessment and stakeholders' consultations were conducted between February and June 2025 to help assess and document existing capacity and level of provision of climate services in the region.

It also engaged and elicited key stakeholders' knowledge on a number of themes including climate-related threats and opportunities, roles and responsibilities of organisations in relation to provision and use of climate products and services in key priority sectors in the region, existing collaborations, recommendations for the development and implementation of the RFCS-GHA.

Figure 3 below illustrates the key steps taken to assess the baseline (steps 1 and 2) and the stakeholders' consultation (steps 3 to 5).

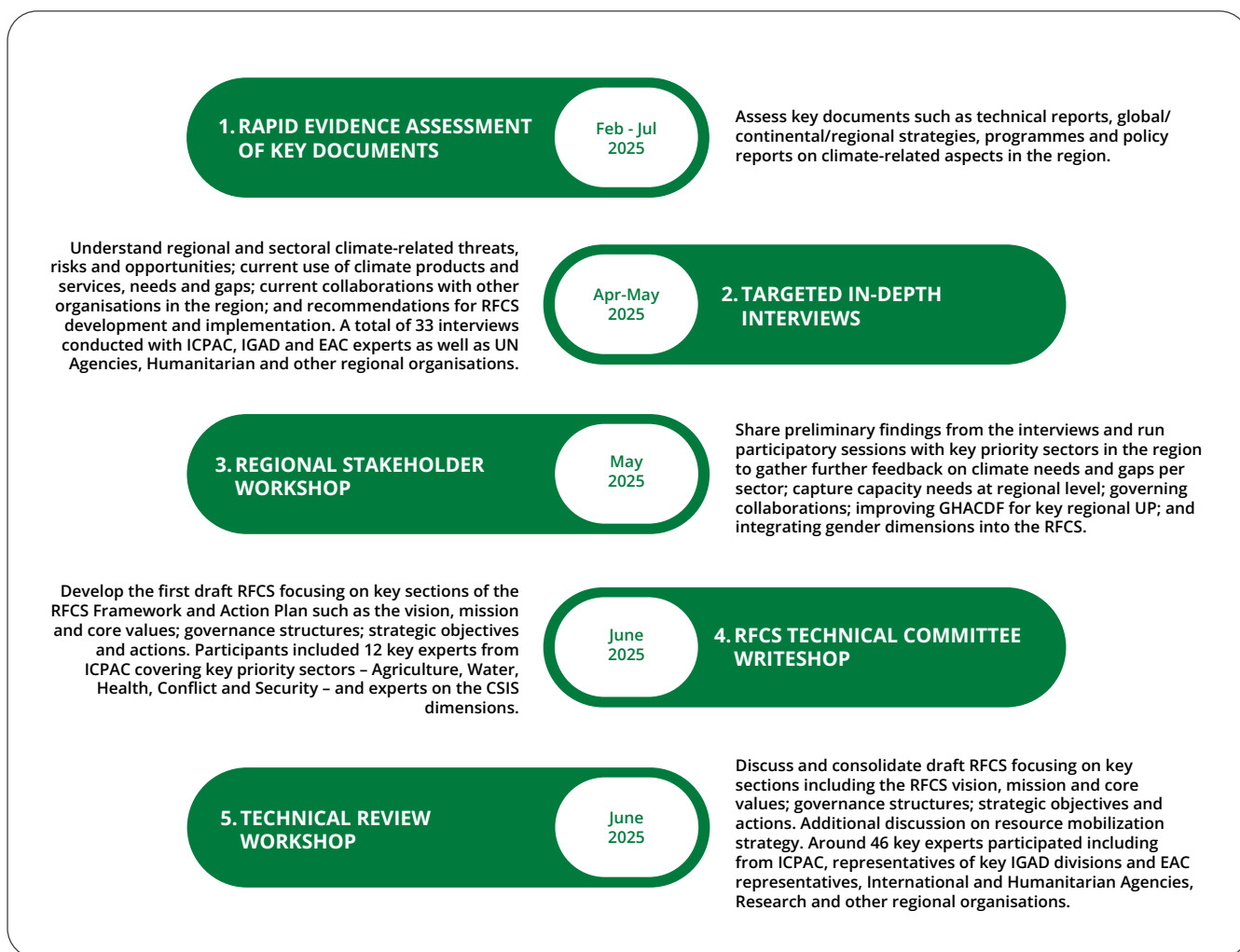


Figure 3 - Timeline and steps pursued to assess the climate services landscape in the region

The outcomes of the baseline assessment and stakeholders' consultations were used to inform and develop subsequent sections of this report.

A summary of the stakeholders' consultations can be found in Appendix 1.

2.2. Baseline Capacity for Regional Climate Services

ICPAC was established in 1989 and was designated as a WMO recognized Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for Eastern Africa in May 2017. RCCs are regional centres of excellence dedicated to providing regional climate products and services.

As an RCC, ICPAC is mandated to produce mandatory regional products (e.g. climate monitoring tools, long-range forecasts and climate datasets) which are critical input to National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) climate operations. In addition, RCCs also undertake various highly recommended functions to address the needs of their respective regional domains.

ICPAC is therefore, mandated to deliver on several mandatory functions including:

- Operational activities for Long-Range Forecasts (LRF)
- Operational activities for Climate Monitoring
- Operational data services to support LRF and climate monitoring
- Training in the use of operational RCC products and services

In addition, there are also highly recommended functions that RCC can also deliver depending on their capacity and priorities in the region:

- Climate Prediction & Projection
- Non-operational Data Services
- Coordination Functions
- Capacity Building
- Research & Development

As an RCC, ICPAC produces and provides across all mandatory functions as well as most of the highly recommended functions (ClimSA, 2023).

Figure 4 below illustrates some of the key products and services currently provided by ICPAC.

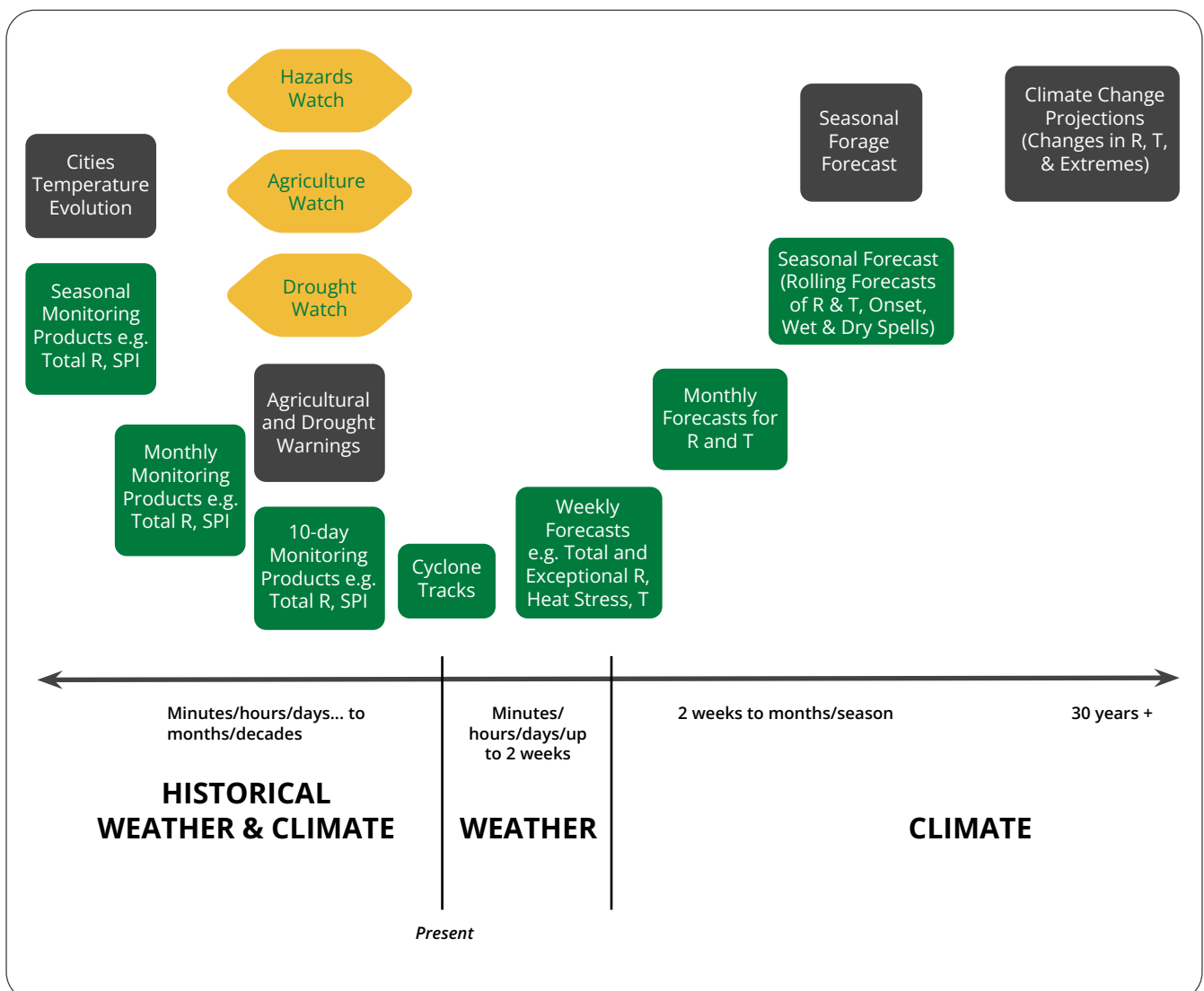


Figure 4 - Climate products and services provided by ICPAC

However, some key challenges remain in relation to the operational status, products, services, and internal capacities of ICPAC, as an RCC, to inform improvements that strengthen regional and national climate services. Key challenges include:

- Long-Range Forecasting: National-level usage remains largely subjective despite availability of objective systems; need for better blending and training.
- Climate Monitoring: Lack of regionally agreed objective thresholds and alert protocols for warnings; real-time temperature monitoring data is lacking.
- Data Services: Temperature datasets are not updated in real time; hampered by data-sharing restrictions and observation network gaps.
- Climate Projections: Need for expanded projection products, including uncertainty information and extreme event projections; lack of systematic support for NMHSS' own analyses.
- Research & Development: Absence of a formal regional research agenda; sustainability of research beyond projects is limited.
- Coordination: Difficulty in addressing specific NMHSS needs distinctly from general products; lack of tailored data flows; need for stronger regional observation networks and IT infrastructure support.
- Training: LRF training is strong, but training for other products is patchy and often dependent on project funding.
- Institutional & Technical Capacity: Infrastructure generally sufficient but requires improved internal organization and more dedicated resources for RCC functions; There is also heavy reliance on external funding.

Table 2 below presents the status of provision and current gaps at ICPAC as an RCC in relation to the five strategic pillars of the RFCS (cf. Figure 1).

Table 2 – ICPAC status of provision and current gaps across the RFCS pillars

RFCS PILLARS	STATUS	GAPS
<p>Observations and monitoring</p>	<p>The RCC have access to ground observation data from member states and Earth Observation (EO) data from multiple sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground observation data: RCC receives station data from 11 countries in the GHA region which is processed and used for monitoring and forecast. • Earth Observation (EO) data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Meteorological Satellites: METEOSAT (MSG, MTG), GEOS, CHIRPS, RFE2, ECMWF. » Land surface observations (Sentinel 2,3, Modis, Landsat) for vegetation indices (e.g. NDVI), Soil moisture (SMOS, SMAP), Land surface temperature (LST), fire. » Ocean Observations for Sea Surface temperature (SST), altimetry, ocean colour, chlorophyll-a (e.g. sentinel 3). » Atmospheric composition for greenhouse gases, aerosols. » Earth Observation tools and systems: » PUMA and climate stations: PUMA and Climate station are satellite data receiving and processing stations installed at ICPAC that allows access to various meteorological satellite, land surface observations and ocean observations. » ICPAC data Maproom: provides Historical Climate Data (precipitation, temperature), seasonal forecast, monitoring and early warning products. » Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS): provides a federated search and access to data from multiple global EO providers such as NASA, NOAA, ESA, JAXA (satellite, in-situ, and model outputs) » Copernicus Climate Data Store (CDS): The Copernicus CDS is the European Union's open-access climate data platform, managed by ECMWF under the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). It provides free access to reanalysis (e.g., ERA5), seasonal forecasts, observations, and climate indicators and Tools for data processing and analysis. <p>EUMETSAT Data Store: provides access to real-time and historical satellite data from Meteosat, Sentinel-3, Metop.</p>	<p>Limited number of ground observation station in the region, fragmented data and lack of standardisation.</p> <p>Infrastructure to store, process and analyse high volume of available EO data.</p> <p>Capacity gaps in EO data processing and interpretation, Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning.</p> <p>Fragmented data systems, poor interoperability, and lack of standardized protocols.</p>
<p>Research, Modelling and Prediction</p>	<p>The RCC actively participates in research although these tend to be largely driven by opportunities provided through international, donor-funded projects, rather than being internally planned or sustained.</p> <p>Focused areas of research include:</p> <p>Sub-seasonal to seasonal predictions (Seasonal (e.g., seasonal rainfall prediction skill evaluation and improvement), climate change projections and impacts.</p>	<p>Lack of a formal research agenda - makes it difficult to prioritize research and align projects with regional needs. This also hinders the sustainability of research after project funding ends.</p> <p>Sector applications - Development of sector applications is in its early stages and requires continued research and development.</p>

RFCS PILLARS	STATUS	GAPS
<p>Climate Services Information System (CSIS)</p>	<p>Development of methods such as statistical and downscaling methods; use of machine learning techniques in predictions and early warning. Co-development of products and services for sectoral applications in key priority areas.</p> <p>The RCC provides several monitoring products including:</p> <p>Rainfall monitoring - monitors rainfall variability across the region using the ICPAC-blended CHIRPS dataset. Maps of total rainfall, rainfall anomalies, and Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) are generated for 10-day, 1-month, and 3-month periods (also a 4-month period for JJAS season). Updates are published at least monthly on the RCC website, accompanied by descriptive text narratives. An archive of rainfall monitoring products for the last two years is maintained online.</p> <p>Temperature Monitoring - Regional maximum, minimum, and mean temperatures are monitored using the NOAA NCEP CPC GTS daily global temperature dataset. Temperature monitoring outputs are not published online but are shared during GHACOF sessions for verification of seasonal forecasts. Real-time regional temperature data is limited by sparse station data and restrictive data sharing policies, resulting in inadequate spatial coverage.</p> <p>Historical Reference Climatology - Historical reference datasets for precipitation and temperature have been established using gridded data. The ICPAC-blended CHIRPS precipitation dataset covers 1981 to the present and is updated monthly, using data from 153 stations shared since 2013. Historical temperature datasets (mean, max, min) are available for 1981–2012, generated by blending reanalysis data and CRU TS3.22 interpolations, but these do not update in real-time.</p>	<p>Develop Temperature Monitoring Products - Given the growing importance of temperature in regions prone to extreme heat and frost, ICPAC could consider developing real-time temperature monitoring products to complement rainfall data.</p> <p>Synthesize Monthly Reports - Creating a synthesized bulletin that combines climate maps, key narratives, and climate driver updates (like El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), and the Western V Gradient) could increase awareness and understanding of developing climate anomalies.</p> <p>Improve Data Access and Sharing - Ensuring the ICPAC Data Library and maprooms are more accessible and well-maintained, with better documentation, would improve their usability. Additionally, fostering more data sharing across the region could facilitate better climate change monitoring and verification.</p> <p>Formalize the Climate Watch System - Establishing a formal Climate Watch system aligned with WMO standards could help mitigate the impacts of climate hazards by providing timely and organized alerts.</p>
	<p>The RCC Long-range Forecasts outputs meet all requirements of the Mandatory functions and several Highly Recommended LRF functions are also integrated into operational outputs – notably the forecast products on intra-seasonal characteristics.</p> <p>The access provided to Global Producing Centres forecasts and hind casts and the facilities and training support for NMHSS to post-process them on the ICPAC HPC represents a notable contribution to the functioning of the regional CSIS.</p> <p>Multi-model approach – the RCC uses objective multi-model ensembles for seasonal forecasts, replacing earlier semi-subjective consensus methods. Forecast probabilities account for divergences among models.</p> <p>Downscaling - For seasonal predictions, published statistical calibration/downscaling methods are implemented. The CORDEX-Africa regional model outputs are used for climate projections, validated for East Africa. No in-house dynamical downscaling is routinely performed.</p> <p>WRF regional implementation - A version of the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model has been optimized for the region and used for medium-range (weekly) rainfall and heat stress predictions.</p> <p>Sub-seasonal prediction - Plans are underway to operationalize sub-seasonal prediction by 2024, addressing a critical gap especially for the MAM season which currently has low prediction skill.</p> <p>Climate projections - Mainly based on CORDEX outputs, including visualizations of rainfall and temperature changes on the East Africa Hazard Watch and ICPAC Maprooms. There is currently no formal system to assist NMHSSs in conducting their own analyses of model outputs.</p>	<p>Subjectivity at national level - Despite objective forecast tools, NMHSS forecasts are still largely subjective.</p> <p>Sub-seasonal and seasonal predictions - Development of operational capacity for sub-seasonal prediction is needed, particularly given low skill for seasonal timescales for the MAM season. Need to better understand the regional response to remote drivers such as ENSO and IOD and how well the seasonal prediction models represent them.</p> <p>Multi-annual to decadal timescales - More research on predictability for the GHA region on these timescales is required.</p> <p>Climate Change projections - Research into changes in hazard frequency (drought, heat waves, heavy rain) is needed to support early warning products. NMHSS require support in analysis of model projections.</p> <p>Disaster Risk Reduction - RCC's communication of information on hazards is currently hampered by lack of a Common Alert Protocol (CAP) for the region.</p> <p>Lack of agreed protocols - There is no region-wide Common Alert Protocol or harmonized thresholds for climate advisories.</p> <p>Need for stronger coordination - Especially to address national needs more effectively and integrate user feedback into service design.</p>

RFCS PILLARS	STATUS	GAPS
<p>User Interface Platforms (UIPS)</p>	<p>There are several regional UIPs already established in the region. These are described below arranged according to Coordination Platforms and Web-based Platforms.</p> <p>Existing COORDINATION PLATFORMS include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) – Established in 1998, this regional UIP bring together climate experts with regional and national stakeholders to discuss the performance of the last season and prepare advisories for the upcoming season. The GHACOF takes place three times a year normally over a 2-day event: in January (covering the MAM season); May (covering JJAS season); and August (covering OND season). The Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) – is a regional platform co-chaired by ICPAC and FAO. This UIP provides up-to-date food security and nutrition situation analysis (early warning) and offers a forum to build consensus on critical issues facing interventions and policy. The FSNWG meets monthly (online) and supports around 80 organizations such as IGAD, UN Agencies, NGOs, donors and research institutes. It has specific sub-groups focusing on nutrition, markets, food security, livestock and pastoralists. Inter-Regional Platform for the Sustainable Management of Desert Locust and other Transboundary Pests – This inter-Regional UIP was constituted in 2021 with the aim of improving synergies, collaborations and sustainable management of desert locust and other transboundary pests in the IGAD region. This UIP brings together IGAD member states, IGAD specialised institutions and divisions, Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa, and development and technical partners. Regional Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group (RTWGAA) – This UIP aims to promote the scaling of coordinated anticipatory action approaches to manage climatic and non-climatic risks on people's lives and livelihoods and on development in different sectors, in line with the regional AA roadmap. It brings together Regional Water User Interface Platform (RWUIP) – This sectoral UIP was constituted in 2024 as a forum for regular dialogue, interaction and coordination amongst stakeholders operating on the climate-water nexus in Eastern Africa (e.g. transboundary organizations, Regional Agencies, Regional NGOs, etc). 	<p>Weak coordination between GHACOF & NCOF outputs and overlap and/or inconsistency in advisories - Enhance the usability of GHACOF outputs by restructuring GHACOF advisories and focusing on regional and transboundary issues.</p> <p>Expand sectoral co-production approaches and ensure ongoing, inclusive participation at GHACOF and other regional forums.</p> <p>Provide stronger technical and capacity-building support to help NMHSS develop and operate national UIPs under NFCSS.</p> <p>Need to strengthen feedback loops between RCC and NHMS to better understand how climate products are being used (access to web-based platforms do necessarily mean products are being used). Same applies to other regional organizations using RCC products and services.</p> <p>Streamline and adequately integrate existing Web-based Platforms and avoid fragmentation by creating new ones.</p>

RFCS PILLARS	STATUS	GAPS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Services Information System Liaison Working Group (CSIS LWG) - The Regional Climate Services Information System (CSIS) Liaison Working Group serves as a UJIP composed of technical experts from ICPAC and the NMHSS of eleven countries in the region .The Liaison Group was established in 2025 with the aim of enhancing and facilitating the delivery of both mandatory and recommended WMO functions from ICPAC to NMHSSs. The CSIS Liaison WG is constituted by 5 sub-groups: 1) Operational Data Services for supporting Long Range Forecasting (LRF) and Climate Monitoring; 2) Climate Monitoring; 3) Seasonal and Sub-Seasonal Forecasting; 4) Climate Change Projections; and 5) Coordination and Implementation Team. <p>Existing WEB-BASED PLATFORMS include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Africa Hazards Watch (EAHW) – Provides near real-time hazard monitoring and forecasts (e.g., droughts, floods, extreme temperatures). East Africa Drought Watch (EADW) - Focuses on drought monitoring using various climate indicators. East Africa Agriculture Watch - Provides information on agricultural risks, integrating climate forecasts with crop and rangeland condition monitoring. <p>The RCC and ICPAC's websites also serve as entry points for accessing data, products and supporting documentation. Additional Watches for both Water Sector and Pests are also being developed.</p>	
Capacity Development	<p>Long-Range Forecasting (LRF) Training - Training on LRF methods and products is well developed and consistently delivered. Activities include an annual foundational workshop, practical sessions during pre-GHACOF workshops, and continuous remote support for updates throughout the year. A comprehensive technical guide and recently a step-by-step training manual for NMHSS on post-processing systems have been developed.</p> <p>Climate Monitoring and Data Services Training - Training on climate monitoring methods and data services is not as structured and is often delivered on an ad hoc basis, often depending on project funding rather than regular planned activities. Many NMHSS surveys showed that only 65% found the documentation and capacity training on methodologies adequate across all services, highlighting a significant gap.</p> <p>Technical Capacity Development – The RCC supports NMHSSs in acquiring and using technical infrastructure e.g. High-performance computing (HPC) system at ICPAC benefiting NMHSS through remote access; Technical training in programming (R, Python) to support development of user-targeted products has also been facilitated.</p> <p>Co-production and Decision Support training – The RCC actively engages NMHSSs in co-production workshops during pre-GHACOF sessions and through specific projects. However, no formal framework or defined cycle exists for training in co-production, climate change projections, or decision support methods. Training on using RCC products in national contexts (e.g., blending regional forecasts with national methods) is not yet implemented but recognized as necessary to improve consistency across borders.</p>	<p>Lack of a formal, regular training framework – particularly focusing on topics beyond LRF such as monitoring, climate change projections, co-production processes.</p> <p>Mandatory documentation - There is no definitive catalogue of the LRF products, climate monitoring products and data services available to NMHSSs that includes a description of the product, its method of creation and intended use.</p> <p>Mandatory training - Additional training on programming languages used in the operational procedures (R, Python, NCL) would assist NMHSS to develop a deeper understanding of the methodology. Training for NMHSSs on how to incorporate/blend the RCC-IGAD forecast output with output from their own national forecasting methods is not currently available and is required before harmonisation of national forecasts across the region.</p> <p>More frequent training may also assist NMHSS to enhance their operational monitoring and keep u to date with methods used across the region as well as promote other data services available such as the ICPAC maprooms.</p>

2.3. Other Regional Stakeholders

Key stakeholders in climate services include data providers, sector experts, communicators and enablers, regional decision-makers, industry and research partners.

They are interconnected partners with complementary roles and make up the regional ecosystem of climate services linking the production and provision of climate information and knowledge to climate services to support risk response and adaptation action on the ground. By working together, they can turn climate information into services with societal value.

Within the GHA region, there is a plethora of regional stakeholders that make up the regional ecosystem of climate services linking the production and provision of climate information and knowledge to adaptation action on the ground. These include climate data and services producers such as ICPAC, sector experts that act as both intermediaries and users such as IGAD and EAC, International Organizations such as the UN and humanitarian agencies, Research Centres and Universities and other regional organizations that focus on transboundary issues (e.g. The Nile Basin Initiative, The Eastern Africa Grain Council). In addition, NHMS are also a key component of the regional ecosystem of climate services as both users of ICPAC products and providers of national data to ICPAC.

In addition to ICPAC's role as an RCC (see section 2.2. above), other key regional stakeholders also characterise the climate services ecosystem in the region, including:

- IGAD centers of excellences and divisions
- EAC divisions
- United Nations Agencies
- Humanitarian Agencies
- Regional/ and/or Transboundary Organisations
- Research Institutes and Universities
- National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs)

Table 3 below provides a summary of key organisations that constitute the climate services ecosystem in the GHA region, their main responsibilities, current collaboration with ICPAC and potential opportunities to be considered in the RFCS-GHA.

Table 3 – Key regional stakeholders in the GHA climate services ecosystem

	Responsibility	Main Sectors/ Themes	Collaboration with ICPAC	Key Opportunities for the RFCS
IGAD	IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock (ICPALD)	Livestock Agriculture Conflict	Use ICPAC seasonal forecasts to produce forage forecast which helps identify pasture availability more precisely than NDVI alone, helping to anticipate livestock movement patterns. Ongoing research collaboration e.g. PASSAGE focusing on operational early warning systems and AA for pastoralists communities in cross-border areas.	Establish a Regional Livestock Early Warning System. Enhance the accuracy and relevance of seasonal forecasts e.g. expand the forage forecast to include water availability, livestock densities, and conflict zones. Digitize and map livestock corridors, water points, and support services across countries. Further strengthen collaboration on cross-border areas (e.g. IGAD clusters).
	IGAD's Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN)	Conflict Livestock	Uses ICPAC seasonal forecasts to assess potential conflict and to produce conflict bulletins which include recommendations for national and regional responses i.e. IGAD leadership, Member States, Donors and the public.	Further strengthen collaboration on cross-border areas (e.g. IGAD clusters). A new tool is being developed to integrate climate (P, T, NDVI) data and conflict behaviour (tentatively called 'Climate Conflict Anticipation Tool'). It aims to support AA and localised adaptation planning. Potential to integrate this tool as a core element of future regional climate resilience frameworks. Opportunity for ICPAC to support on provision of monthly data to feed the tool (which is currently based on US data portals). Opportunity to formalise long-tern collaboration between ICPAC-CEWARN.
	IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (ID-DRSI)	Multi-sectoral	Collaboration on IDDRSI-funded projects e.g. Bridging the Resilience of Food and Nutrition Security project. These collaborations tend to focus on data systems, forecasting tools, GHACOF and capacity building activities.	Opportunity to enhance internal coordination between IGAD divisions and internal collaboration mechanisms. Opportunity to leverage on IDDRSI's framework for co-funding opportunities and regional visibility.
	Economic Co-operation and Regional Integration Division (ECRID)	Energy Trade	No active collaboration currently but recognition of underutilised climate data and products by ICPAC across operational divisions.	Establish a clear, enforced coordination mechanism for climate across AU and RECs. Better alignment with continental frameworks is critical to move from policy to effective implementation.

Responsibility		Main Sectors/ Themes	Collaboration with ICPCAC	Key Opportunities for the RFCS
EAC	Health and Social Development Unit (HSD)	Health	<p>Uses ICPCAC's seasonal and weekly forecasts to anticipate and prepare for potential health impacts (e.g., cholera, malaria, flood-related diseases)</p> <p>Uses the information for planning, stocking medicines, and preventive measures.</p> <p>Established a situation room to enhance data interpretation and response.</p>	<p>Improve intersectoral and cross-border coordination, which hampers effective One Health implementation.</p> <p>Improve coordination systems, including shared data platforms and joint planning e.g. Link existing climate and health information systems for early action.</p> <p>Planned climate-health warning platform to be linked to IGAD's situation room. Priority diseases include malaria, cholera, heat-related illnesses, and air pollution-related conditions.</p> <p>Strengthen early warning and rapid response capacities using frameworks like the "7-1-7" model for disease detection and response.</p>
	Water Unit	Water	Primarily research-based collaboration with ICPCAC on a groundwater resilience project.	<p>Potential for strengthen collaboration particularly on transboundary information sharing and upstream/downstream river basin coordination in the region.</p> <p>Improved collaboration with EAC water sector as well as with other regional organisations and research institutes operating in the region.</p>
	Gender Unit	GESI	Collaboration under the IGAD Gender Unit Leadership	<p>Need for strategic and structured integration of GESI dimensions into RFCS.</p> <p>GESI integration should be both at technical level (i.e. consideration on products and services development and packaging) but also as part of processes of dissemination and advisory.</p>
	Meteorology Sector	Weather and Climate	Largely limited to participation at the GHACOFs.	<p>Collaboration between EAC and ICPCAC is currently weak but there is an opportunity for improving joint efforts, especially in regional projects.</p>
	Agriculture and Food Security	Agriculture Food security	Largely through EAC Meteorology sector	<p>Collaboration between EAC and ICPCAC is currently weak but there is an opportunity for improving joint efforts, especially in regional projects.</p>

Responsibility		Main Sectors/ Themes	Collaboration with ICPAC	Key Opportunities for the RFCS
Water and Climate Change	Responsible for supporting water and climate change-related activities and policy and mainstreaming climate adaptation and mitigation in regional integration programmes	Water and Climate	Not known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures stronger regional coordination in managing climate and water-related challenges that cut across borders. The division can facilitate the integration of climate services into transboundary water resource management, disaster risk reduction, and climate adaptation strategies, while promoting harmonized policies across member states. Enhances the linkage between climate science and policy, supports the mobilization of resources for resilience-building, and strengthens partnerships with other regional and international actors. Help the EAC deliver more effective, climate-informed solutions to safeguard water security, ecosystems, and livelihoods across the region.
Energy	Coordinates regional energy activities and the East African Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE)	Energy	Not known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating climate services into its planning and operations. Tailored climate information can guide power generation choices (hydro, solar, wind, geothermal) and long-term infrastructure investments, while seasonal forecasts and hydrological models can improve hydropower management by optimizing water storage, electricity production, and drought preparedness. Climate data also supports renewable energy expansion by identifying suitable sites for solar, wind, and geothermal development. Early warning systems are essential for strengthening grid stability and managing risks from extreme weather such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves. At the policy level, mainstreaming climate services into national and regional frameworks enhances resilience and attracts climate-smart investments. Sharing climate information across borders promotes regional power trade, interconnectivity, and coordinated disaster response. Finally, building technical capacity within utilities and regulatory bodies ensures effective interpretation and application of climate services in operational decision-making.

Responsibility		Main Sectors/ Themes	Collaboration with ICPAC	Key Opportunities for the RFCS
Lake Victoria Basin Commission	The Lake Victoria Basin Commission focusses on coordinating the various interventions on the Lake and its Basin.	Water	Not known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhances coordinated management of the basin's shared resources across the EAC region. Strengthens access to tailored climate information for key sectors such as water, agriculture, fisheries, transport, and energy, while supporting early warning systems for floods, droughts, and disease outbreaks that often impact livelihoods around the lake. LVBC's participation promotes cross-border collaboration, harmonized policy implementation, and joint resilience-building efforts, ensuring that climate services directly contribute to sustainable development, food security, and regional stability in the Lake Victoria basin.
East African Health Research Commission	The East African Health Research Commission coordinates and maps out a regional agenda on health research as well as the translation of its results into policy and practice within the Partner States.	Health	Not known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will strengthen the link between climate information and public health decision-making across the EAC. Enables better anticipation and management of climate-sensitive diseases such as malaria, cholera, and dengue, while supporting the development of early warning systems and targeted health interventions. Promotes evidence-based research, regional data sharing, and harmonized strategies that enhance resilience of health systems to climate shocks. Ensures that climate services directly safeguard community health, reduce disease burdens, and contribute to sustainable development in the region.
East African Development Bank	East African Development Bank offers structured financial products and services to organisations in the health, education, hospitality and tourism, infrastructure development, energy and utilities, and agriculture sectors.	All	Not known	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides critical opportunities to align climate information with sustainable financing and investment across the region. EADB can leverage climate services to de-risk investments, support climate-resilient infrastructure, and expand access to green financing for sectors such as agriculture, energy, water, and transport. Involvement can strengthen resource mobilization for adaptation and mitigation projects, facilitates innovative financial instruments like climate bonds or insurance schemes, and promotes regional economic stability by ensuring that development financing is informed by reliable climate risk assessments. Help accelerate climate-smart growth and resilience-building in the East African Community.

United Nations Agencies		Responsibility	Main Sectors/ Themes	Collaboration with ICPAC	Key Opportunities for the RFCS
	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Supporting the development of early warning systems, enhancing weather and climate services, and fostering regional collaboration among National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs).	Weather and Climate	Collaboration through RCC, data systems and quality control, engagement at GHACOF, collaboration on key programmes and research activities (e.g. WISER, ClimSA, WCRP, CLIPS), early warnings.	Clarify institutional roles and formalise governance mechanisms and institutional sustainability across the climate services landscape. Strategic engagement with WMO initiatives such as EW4ALL, SOFF. Enhance joint programming.
	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Enhancing food security, promoting sustainable agriculture, and building resilience to climate change and other shocks. Key areas of responsibility include supporting national governments, collaborating with development partners, and providing technical assistance for agricultural development, natural resource management, and emergency response.	Agriculture Food security	FAO and ICPAC co-lead the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) which is a regional UIP that supports sharing of ICPAC's seasonal forecasts and humanitarian decision-making (cf. Table 3 under UIPs) Pilot resilience building activities e.g. ACREI Active participant at GHACOFs	Opportunity for ICPAC to provide the early forecast they share at the FSNWG with other key regional stakeholders and NMHS to ensure early planning and AA response Break silos to foster cross-collaboration between climate services, early warning, DRR and anticipatory action workstreams Strengthen flood early warning systems (which remain underdeveloped compared to drought systems) Promote multi-hazards approaches that include socio-economic and conflict-related risks Scale up of regional agriculture resilience building initiatives
	World Food Programme (WFP)	Responsible for providing food assistance and nutrition support to vulnerable populations, particularly those affected by conflict, climate shocks, and economic instability. WFP's work also includes emergency preparedness and response, strengthening food systems, and supporting national governments in addressing food security and nutrition challenges.	Food security	Ongoing collaboration with ICPAC as provider of regional climate data Indirectly through NMHS who collaborate with WFP and ICPAC (e.g. capacity building, supporting tailored forecasting, etc).	Opportunity for stronger collaboration between WFP and ICPAC to reduce dependency on external sources of regional climate data Expand on transboundary anticipatory action and activation protocols and strengthen collaboration with other actors operating in this area e.g. humanitarian agencies, UNDRR, research and technical institutions e.g. CGIAR, academic institutions Enhance capacity building in NMHS particularly on flood forecasting and impact analysis

Responsibility		Main Sectors/ Themes	Collaboration with ICPAC	Key Opportunities for the RFCS
UNDRR	Coordinates and supports disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives working closely with member states in Eastern Africa. Key responsibilities include strengthening risk governance, promoting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR, and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders.	DRR	Several pilots are underway for flood and drought impact forecasting led by ICPAC with UNDRR and other partners. Actively engage at GHACOFs Collaborate with the IGAD DRM Unit (based at ICPAC).	Formalise coordination mechanisms through MoUs or shared protocols. Transboundary cooperation and the need for strengthening transboundary data and information sharing. Prioritize investment in IBF systems, clarify institutional ownership per hazard, and connect forecasts with response triggers and decision-making protocols The anticipatory action roadmap, technical working groups, and early warning situation rooms are important assets already in use and should be leveraged rather than duplicated. The Eastern African Dialogue Platform is mentioned as another useful mechanism to scale anticipatory actions and connect CIS with humanitarian action.
UNICEF	Focus on young child survival and development, children and AIDS, basic education and gender equality, child protection, and emergency preparedness and response.	GESI	Sporadic engagement with ICPAC e.g. COVID19 Emergency Project and collaboration during the Africa Climate Summit. Main use of climate information is done at country office level and limited integration of climate data in programming. Existing examples include Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) – global and sub-national assessments of climate risks for children; Climate Resilient Wash (R-WASH) programs; Today and Tomorrow Initiative (parametric insurance for cyclones).	UNICEF is exploring collaborations with ICPAC to develop child-centered early warning systems. Discussions about expanding parametric insurance to droughts and other slow-onset events. Child-specific data remains limited, and children's needs are often overlooked in climate policies and finance mechanisms. There's a push to better integrate climate, social, and vulnerability data to support anticipatory action and resilience planning. Potential to develop UNICEF demonstrator service on children and social care services – ongoing discussions between UNICEF, ICAPC to develop early warning services for children

Responsibility		Main Sectors/ Themes	Collaboration with ICPAC	Key Opportunities for the RFCS
<p>UNEP (Global Environment Monitoring Systems & Early Warning for the Environment Unit)</p>	<p>Provides innovative monitoring services on the state of nature & biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change, and their cascading risks. Covers risk sources from upstream to midstream state of the environment, and end-of-pipe monitoring of solutions and investment enablers. Ensures the world community (national, regional, global levels) has access to early warning data and assessments to support science- and data-based policy, investment, and risk mitigation</p>	<p>Environment</p>	<p>Technical collaboration with ICPAC on air pollution monitoring, forecasting, and data integration into regional climate models. Joint delivery of environmental early warning services on air quality and climate risks. Support integration of air pollution datasets into ICPAC's regional systems for resilience building.</p>	<p>Contributes to the UN Secretary-General's Acceleration Agenda through the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.- Strengthens Africa's capacity to deploy multi-hazard early warning systems aligned with the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework (Target G).- Provides opportunities for the RFCS to position air quality monitoring as a cornerstone of climate justice and resilience for communities most exposed to climate and pollution risks.- Supports development of regional observatories and science-policy interfaces that enhance the uptake of monitoring data for decision-making.</p>
<p>Humanitarian Agencies</p>	<p>IFRC</p>	<p>DRM</p>	<p>Collaboration between IFRC and ICPAC is largely based on research projects (e.g. PASSAGE project) or through collaborations with National Societies. IFRC uses climate data for Impact-Based Forecasting that is then disseminated to national societies and communities but with information from their Global Risk Watch</p>	<p>Need for collaboration with regional bodies like ICPAC, IGAD and EAC to access accurate climate data and integrate it into disaster preparedness strategies ICPAC should take a lead role on coordinating trigger-based actions and systems in the region Opportunity to strengthen collaboration to simplify climate data, enhancing data collection, and fostering cross-border cooperation on climate resilience</p>
<p>Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)</p>	<p>Provide vital medical humanitarian aid to vulnerable populations. Their work includes responding to emergencies like conflict, epidemics, and natural disasters, as well as addressing chronic health issues.</p>	<p>Health</p>	<p>Collaboration on climate-health early warning systems through the production of tailored bulletins.</p>	<p>Opportunity to strengthen collaboration focusing on the health sector and emergency response</p>

Regional / Trans-boundary organizations		Responsibility	Main Sectors/ Themes	Collaboration with ICPAC	Key Opportunities for the RFCS
	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)	An Inter-Governmental Organization created and owned by Member States in Eastern and Central Africa (ECA) through their National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS). ASARECA's mandate is to Transform Agriculture for Improved Livelihoods, Sustained Economic Growth, and Inclusive Development	Agriculture Livestock	Not clear	Potential for collaboration on research-related activities in the agriculture, food security and livestock sectors
	The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)	A regional partnership among ten countries in the Nile River Basin, including several in eastern Africa, aimed at fostering cooperation for the sustainable development and management of the shared water resources. It seeks to promote socioeconomic development, regional peace, and security through equitable utilization of the Nile's waters.	Water	Research linkages and strategic partnership between NBI and ICPAC e.g. INFLOW project	Potential for strengthen collaboration particularly on transboundary information sharing and upstream/downstream river basin coordination in the region
	Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)	Focused on facilitating, developing, promoting, and supporting the grain value chain in the Eastern Africa region. Its main responsibility is to foster the development of inclusive and structured grain trading systems while also influencing relevant policies.	Agriculture Food security	Established MoU between EAGC and ICPAC EAGC is part of the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) co-chaired by ICPAC and FAO	Strengthen collaboration particularly regarding potential impacts on supply chains and trade within the region.

Research institutes and universities		Responsibility	Main Sectors/ Themes	Collaboration with ICPAC	Key Opportunities for the RFCS
Research institutes and universities	<p>Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) International</p>	<p>Focusing on climate-resilient agriculture, food security, and sustainable development. Their responsibilities include delivering scalable solutions, collaborating on integrated interventions, enhancing capacity, and supporting multi-stakeholder coordination. CGIAR also works to improve policy coherence and build resilience to climate change through early warning systems and other initiatives.</p>	Agriculture	Ongoing collaboration through key programmes such as Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) and the Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in East Africa (ECCREA) project	<p>Strengthen collaboration between RCC and RECs divisions. Strengthen research-related activities helping to bridge the science-policy interface. Improve/downscale climate projections for the region.</p>
	<p>Stockholm Environment Institute</p>	<p>SEI plays a regional and transboundary science-policy role, aligned with UNEP, to strengthen air quality monitoring networks across Africa.</p>	Environment	SEI supports ICPAC in developing regional air quality monitoring networks, providing technical and policy expertise for transboundary pollution issues. It works closely with ICPAC to integrate air quality indicators into regional climate services, early warning products, and climate resilience planning.	<p>Strengthening the RFCS priority sector on Environment through: regional data-sharing frameworks; science-policy dialogues; capacity building of national institutions on monitoring and WHO compliance; and co-designing multi-hazard early warning systems that integrate air quality into climate services.</p>
	<p>The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM)</p>	<p>A network of 175 universities across 40 countries in Africa. This network collaborates globally with other university networks, development partners, policymakers, and leaders to leverage synergies and work towards shared objectives in delivering science solutions for development, human capital development, and institutional reform in the African Higher Agricultural Education system.</p>	Agriculture	Not clear	<p>Potential for closer collaboration particularly focusing on the research and innovation aspects as well as training and building capacity opportunities across the region.</p>
National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSS)	<p>Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.</p>	<p>Responsible for monitoring, forecasting, and providing information related to weather, climate, and water resources. They play a crucial role in disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and supporting sustainable development by delivering timely and accurate information to various users, including governments, businesses, and the public.</p>	Weather and climate	Ongoing collaboration between NMHSS and ICPAC in terms of data sharing, capacity building and Pre-COF training activities, research and innovation, etc.	<p>develop, refine and implement their NFCSSs focusing on the five strategic pillars of the GFCS Strengthen collaboration between ICPAC and NMHSS through the CSIS UIP (see Table 3 under UIPs)</p>

Figure 5 below provides a schematic diagram of the climate services ecosystem in the GHA region.

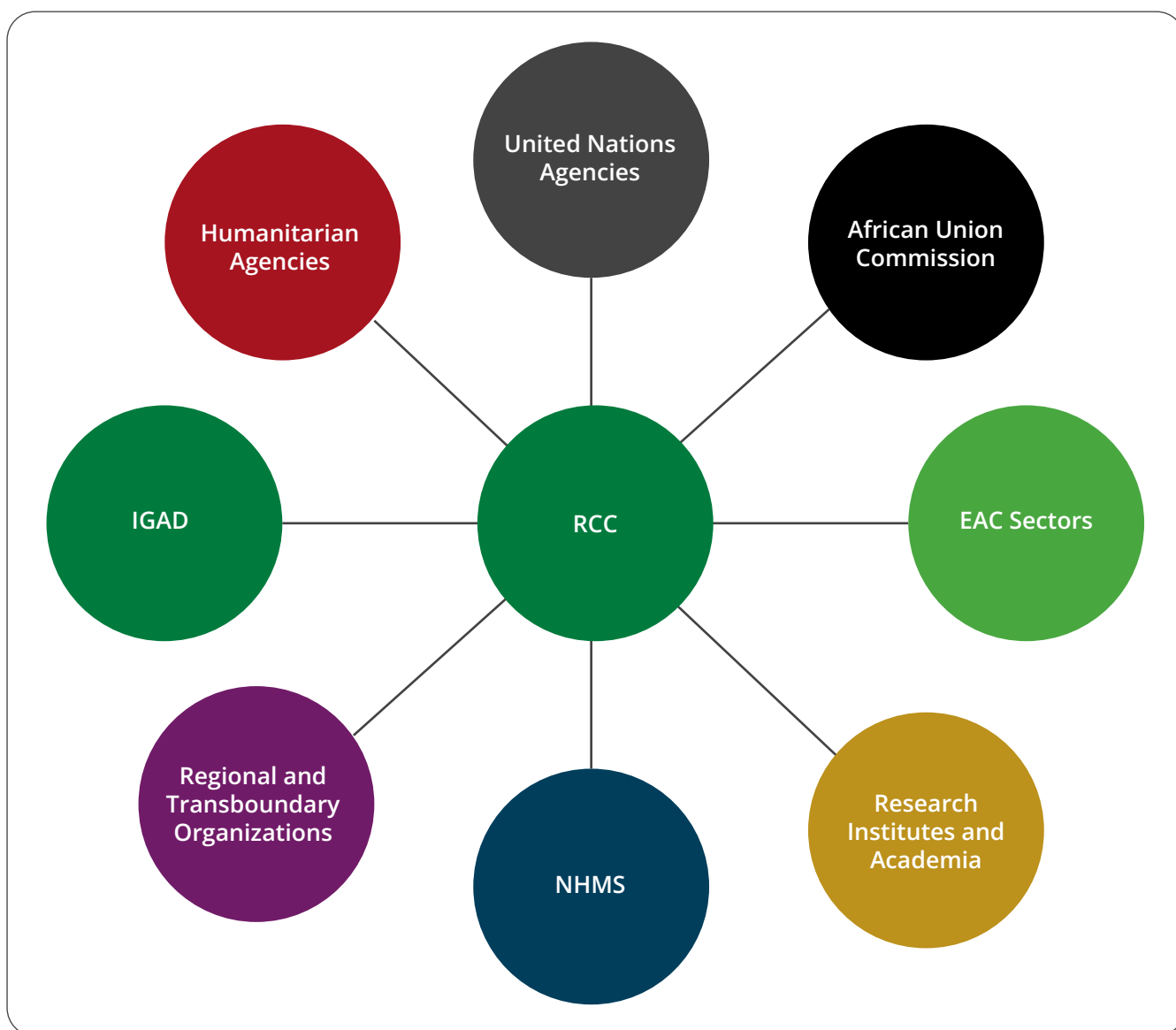


Figure 5 - Ecosystem of key regional stakeholders in climate services in GHA

2.4. Key challenges and priorities for the RFCS-GHA

Key challenges and priorities for the GHA region were identified, consolidated and clustered based on the data collected through the various methods deployed and described in Figure 3. Table 4 presents general challenges, impacts and proposed solutions for the overall GHA.

Table 4 - Key challenges, impacts and proposed solutions at regional level

Key Themes	Key Impacts	Proposed Solutions
Data, Forecasting, and Information Systems	Forecasting uncertainty; inadequate preparedness; slow response; uncoordinated actions	Invest in observation networks and ICT infrastructure; co-design user-friendly products; standardize and share data regionally.
Governance, Coordination, and Institutional Gaps	Fragmented policies; duplication of efforts; inefficient disaster response and adaptation measures.	Strengthen multi-level coordination; harmonize policies and frameworks; clarify institutional mandates; promote cross-border collaboration.
Climate and Environmental Hazards	Increased disaster losses; reduced agricultural productivity; health crises; ecological degradation.	Enhance early warning systems; invest in ecosystem restoration; implement integrated risk reduction and climate adaptation strategies.

Key Themes	Key Impacts	Proposed Solutions
Infrastructure and Resource Constraints	Limited emergency and health service reach; poor maintenance of systems; high humanitarian costs.	Upgrade critical infrastructure; ensure sustainable maintenance funding; improve health and emergency service capacity.
Capacity and Human Resources	Weak technical response; poor local adaptation actions; underutilization of data.	Strengthen technical training; build local and community capacity; develop programs for media and local leaders to interpret and communicate climate information.
Community Engagement and Communication	Low trust in forecasts; poor risk preparedness; exclusion of marginalized groups.	Design inclusive communication strategies; involve communities in planning; simplify scientific messages; integrate gender and local knowledge.
Financial and Investment Limitations	Inadequate adaptation and preparedness; reliance on emergency aid; slow resilience-building.	Develop long-term, flexible financing; improve access to climate finance; create bankable resilience projects; strengthen national investment frameworks.
Policy, Strategy, and Planning Challenges	Weak implementation of climate measures; disjointed efforts; poor integration into national development.	Integrate DRR and climate adaptation in development plans; establish basin-wide cooperation; adopt evidence-based decision-making; strengthen policy enforcement.
Socio-Economic and Security Impacts	Increased conflict and displacement; rising food insecurity and poverty; reduced livelihoods.	Strengthen early warning–early action linkages; improve social protection systems; address resource conflict drivers; enhance food system resilience.

Regarding key priorities areas that should be considered in the development of the RFCS-GHA these converged towards a few key points (Box 1).

Box 1 – Key priorities for consideration in the development of the RFCS-GHA

- Clarify institutional roles and formalise governance mechanisms between key regional organisations operating/using climate services in the region.
- Strengthen transboundary data and information sharing at regional level through Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or shared protocols, establish how key regional institutions collaborate and can complement each other especially in transboundary and emergency contexts.
- Prioritize investment in IBF systems at regional level, address institutional ownership challenges and alignment with WMO standards by collaboration in key areas of intervention, clarify institutional ownership per hazard and connect forecasts with response triggers and decision-making protocols.
- Leverage existing regional institutions, systems and platforms by optimizing and connecting existing ones like the anticipatory action roadmap, situation rooms, and dialogue platforms.
- Enhance the usability of GHACOF outputs by restructuring the UIP and focusing on regional and transboundary issues (rather than national focus).
- Comprehensively and systematically evaluate who uses Climate Information products and Services, how they are accessed, and whether they are fit-for-purpose in the context of the RCC mandate and main intended users.
- Define key research priorities and agenda as part of the RFCS-GHA.
- Focus on supporting low-capacity countries while not duplicating efforts where national systems are strong.
- Approach climate services as a strategic entry point for attracting multi-sectoral funding, especially when linked with DRM, food security, or migration.

03

THE REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

3.1. Functions and objectives of the RFCS-GHA

The RFCS-GHA aims to facilitate technical activities and improve regional-level coordination, strengthening individual components of the climate services value-chain and climate services ecosystem in the region. The main functions of the framework are to provide:

- A platform for multi-institutional coordination to develop, deliver and use climate services.
- A formal framework for regional collaboration to generate and share user-oriented climate services.
- A functional bridge between climate services and user needs at Regional to local levels, facilitating feedback, monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of tailored services.
- An operational bridge to share scientific knowledge, data and expertise, improving evidence-based climate services.
- Integration of climate services and products into decision making and regional policies such as regional adaptation plans.
- Improved inclusivity and equity of climate services at all levels, ensuring the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized are met.

The RFCS-GHA has three key overarching objectives:

- The RFCS establishes a common vision for climate services at the regional level identifying key priority capacity needs, corresponding priority actions and resource requirements and mobilisation for climate service development and delivery in support of resilience and sustainable development within a region.
- The RFCS provides a framework within which stakeholders at the regional level are coordinated and work together to develop, deliver, and use climate services for decision-making in climate-sensitive sectors at a regional level.
- The RFCS as a vehicle for supporting country-to-country learning and generate information to support the establishment of NFCSS.

Figure 6 is a graphical representation of the two-level focus of the RFCS-GHA - regional and national levels. At regional level the focus will be on the collaborations between ICPAC and other key regional stakeholders including the two RECs – IGAD and EAC – and international/humanitarian organisations as well as organisations with regional and/or transboundary focus or mandates in the GHA. At the national level, the priority is on supporting and strengthening NMHSs capacity in the region.

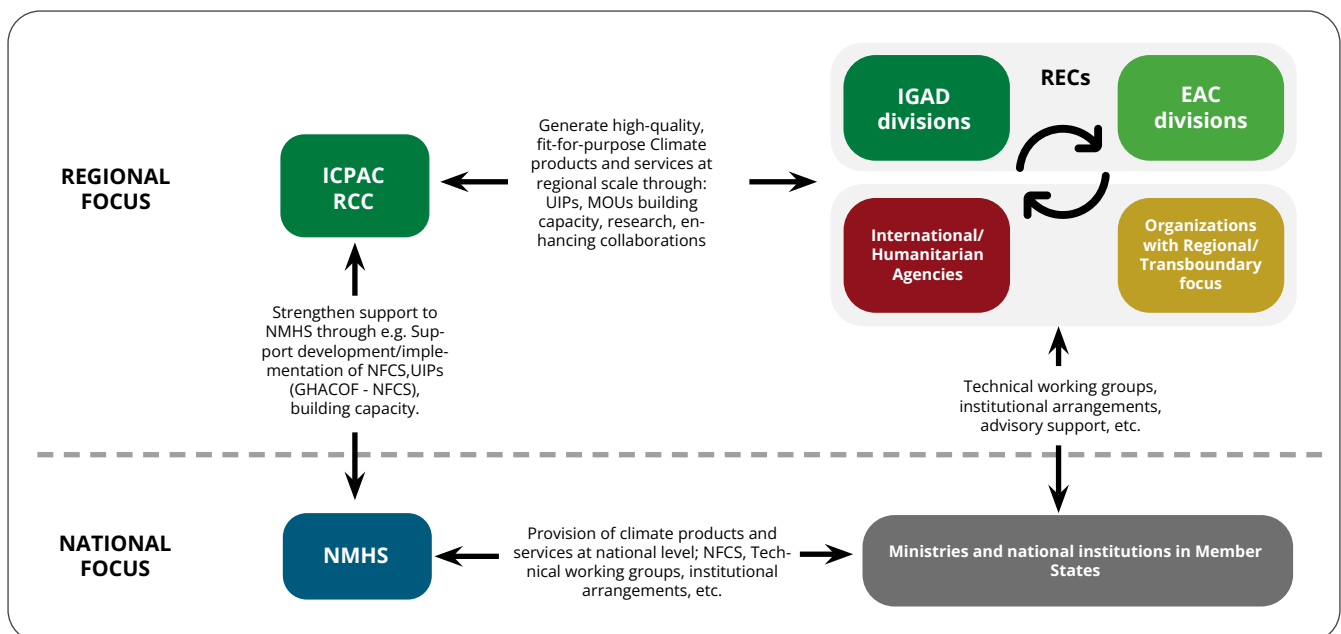


Figure 6 – Key areas of focus in the RFCS between ICPAC, regional organisations and NMHSs

3.2. RFCS Vision, Mission and Core Values

3.2.1. Vision

A resilient and sustainable region that anticipates, manages climate variability and change for inclusive development.

3.2.2. Mission

To foster a coordinated regional mechanism that provides timely, actionable climate services to support informed decision-making, reduce climate risks and impacts and safeguard livelihoods in the Greater Horn of Africa.

3.2.3. Core Values

The RFCS-GHA is underpinned by 8 main core values which will guide and inform the development and implementation of the regional framework throughout its lifespan. These are:

Box 2 – RFCS-GHA Core Values

COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION - Promote effective collaboration and coordination among regional and national organizations engaged in climate services to enhance resilience, data sharing and use, and informed decision-making.

USER-DRIVEN - Ensure the provision and use of accessible, timely and actionable climate services based on the needs and priorities of key users in the region through effective engagement and co-production processes.

EVIDENCE-BASED - Informed by current knowledge, scientific integrity, and innovation.

SUSTAINABILITY - Ensure the continuous delivery of relevant, high-quality, and accessible climate services over time.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY - Deliver climate services that are transparent and accountable based on trust, fairness, and actionable services responsive to key users' needs.

INTEGRITY - Acting with honesty, consistency and strong moral and ethical principles in all decisions and actions.

GENDER, EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION - Ensure the integration and representation of the needs from different groups particularly those most vulnerable to climate risks based on gender, age, and disabilities.

REFLEXIVE AND ADAPTIVE - Facilitate reflection and learning through feedback and engagement to stay relevant and effective throughout time.

The RFCS-GHA Governance Structure

The RFCS-GHA will be governed and implemented through a structure of Committees and Technical Groups that have different roles, responsibilities and decision-making authority to effectively develop, implement and operationalize the RFCS throughout its lifetime.

Figure 7 illustrates the governance structure and each of these elements are described below.

3.3.4 The RFCS-GHA Governance Structure

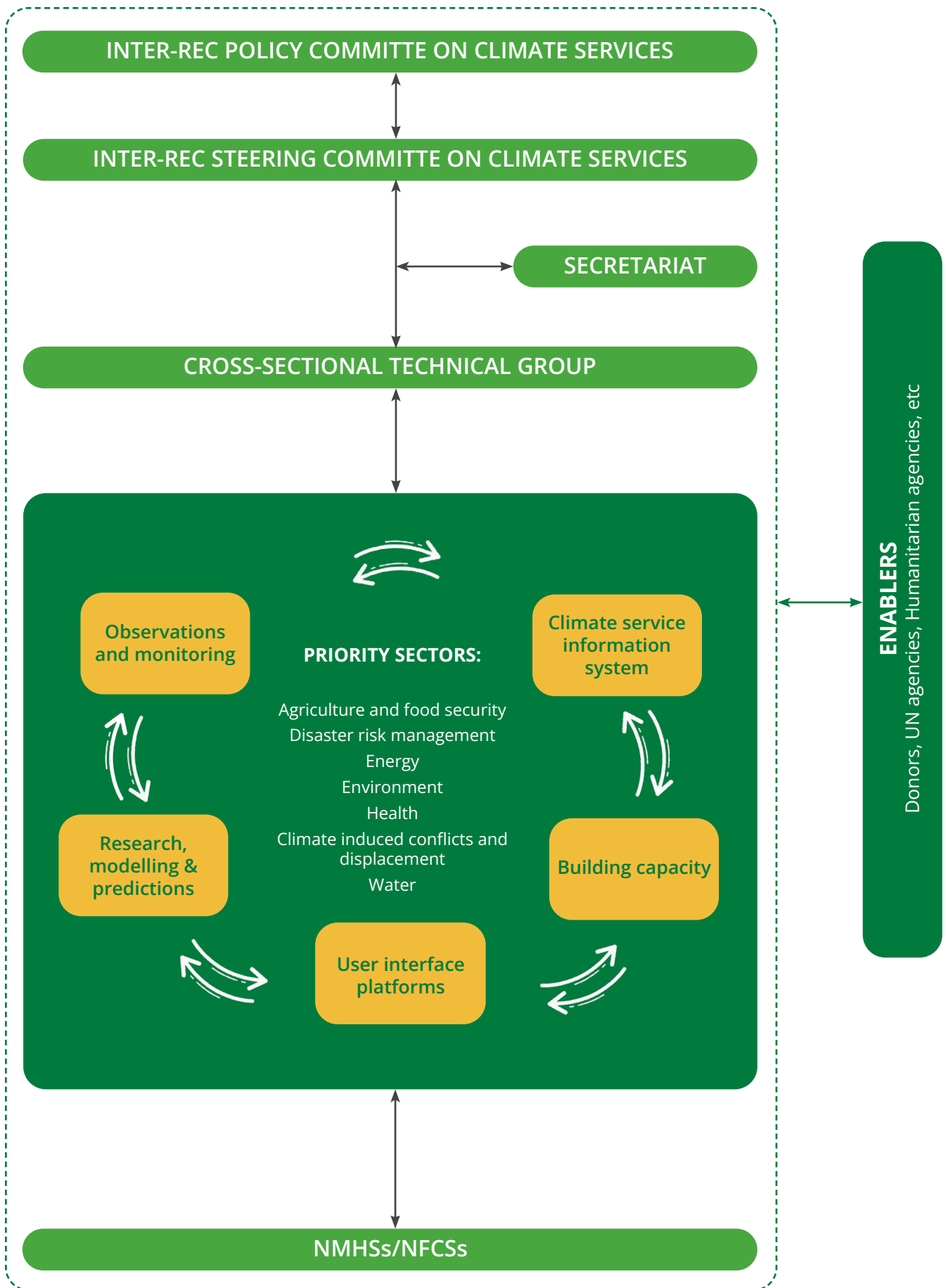


Figure 7 – RFCS-GHA Governance structure

3.3.1. The Inter-REC Policy Committee on Climate Services

The Inter-Regional Economic Community Policy Committee on Climate Services (I-RPCCS) will be responsible for the overall oversight of the RFCS-GHA by:

- Providing overall policy and strategic direction for the RFCS-GHA
- Oversight and guidance of the secretariat activities
- Mobilizes resources for operationalization of the RFCS-GHA
- Ensure alignment with international and regional standards for climate services
- Advocates for the RFCS in the region
- Resolve any disputes or conflicts that may arise and escalate as part of the implementation of the RFCS-GHA

The I-RPCCS will be composed of:

- Two Co-chairs:
 - » The chair of IGAD
 - » The chair of EAC
- Committee Members:
 - » Ministries responsible for Meteorological Services
 - » EAC Secretary General
 - » IGAD Executive Secretary
 - » AUC Commissioner for Agriculture, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment
 - » WMO Director of the Regional Office for Africa
 - » Representatives from the UN organisations (from relevant RFCS pillars), private sector and other partners as observers
 - » ICPAC will serve as the Secretariat

3.3.2. The Inter-REC Steering Committee on Climate Services

The Inter-REC Steering Committee on Climate Services (I-RSCCS) will oversee the technical implementation of the RFCS including:

- Ensure adequate alignment with key priorities for climate services in the region
- Provides strategic and technical advice to

the secretariat and the RFCS technical group regarding the implementation of activities

The I-RSCCS will be composed of:

- Two Co-chairs:
 - » The chair of IGAD
 - » The chair of EAC

In case the EAC and IGAD countries coincide, then that country will be the chair.

- Committee Members:
 - » Heads of the NMHSs in the region
 - » EAC Secretary Director of Infrastructure
 - » IGAD Director of Environment and Agriculture
 - » Head of Meteorology at EAC Secretariat
 - » Coordinator of IDDRSI
 - » WMO Representative Office for Eastern and Southern Africa
 - » ACMAD Director-General
 - » Co-chairs from the RFCS Cross-Sectoral Technical group
 - » ICPAC will serve as the Secretariat

3.3.3. The Secretariat

The Secretariat will be responsible for the day-to-day activities of the RFCS, including:

- Coordinate the implementation of the RFCS and its components
- Strengthen or enhance collaboration and coordination between Inter-REC Committees and RFCS Cross-Sectoral Technical Group
- Coordination and organization of regional UIPs
- Secretariat support to Inter-REC Steering Committee
- Communicate, deliver and disseminate climate services/early warning products for the priority sectors
- Coordinate capacity building for sector working groups to enhance co-production

The RFCS Secretariat will be hosted at ICPAC as the RCC in the Greater Horn of Africa. The RFCS Secretariat will be composed of:

- Coordinator

- Administrative
- Communications expert
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) expert
- Gender, Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) expert

3.3.4. The Cross-Sectoral Technical Group

The Cross-Sectoral Technical Group (CSTG) advises the Inter-REC Steering Committee on current and emerging climate and early warning and action issues in the region. Its roles and responsibilities include:

- Provides strategic technical oversight, direction and advice on cross-sectoral/cross-cutting issues and emerging opportunities across RFCS pillars
- Provides technical support on the co-designing and co-production of climate products and services/early warning advisories in the sector working groups and NFCSs WG
- Coordinate data sharing and modelling activities and provides data analysis and modelling based on sector working group needs
- Acts as a platform for inter-sectoral integration of information and advisories for decision-making in the priority sectors
- Addresses capacity needs for climate services and capacity development for cross-sector data integration and modelling
- Collects and respond to feedback from sectoral WGs on improvement of climate products, access and their use
- Ensures that climate information products/early warning products are effectively communicated, interpreted and understood by WGs members
- Represents the RFCS/region at regional and international climate forums

The CSTG will be composed of:

- Two co-chairs
- RFCS Secretariat Coordinator
- ICPAC RFCS Pillars experts
- 1 ICPAC sector representative for each UIP/TWG
- 1 Sectoral representative for each UIP/TWG

- 1 ICPAC representative for the NMHSs UIP/TWG
- 1 NMHSs representative for the NMHSs UIP/TWG

3.3.5. The Priority Sectors

The RFCS-GHA include seven priority sectors which are described in the table below.

Table 5 – RFCS-GHA Priority sectors

Priority Sectors	Rationale
Agriculture and food security	Priority sector in the GFCS and in the GHA region as a critical contributor to the economy, livelihoods and food security in the region. In the context of the RFCS-GHA, agriculture covers all areas related to agriculture including production, livestock, food security, trade and fisheries.
Climate induced conflicts and displacement	The climate-conflict nexus is a priority area in the GHA region given the direct and indirect impacts that weather extremes have on resource depletion (e.g. degraded pastures, shrinking water bodies), displacement and forced migration, and impact on livelihoods. Other indirect impacts include exploitation, gender-based violence and health risks. Resource-based conflicts are of particular concern in certain cross-border areas.
Disaster Risk Management	Priority sector in the GFCS and in the GHA region due to the region's high exposure and vulnerability to multiple hazards (e.g. droughts, floods, landslides, and pests) and the impacts these have in food security, livelihoods many of which are transboundary in nature.
Energy	Priority sector in the GFCS and in the region given the nexus between development, resilience and long-term sustainability particularly focusing on increasing access to clean energy through renewable sources. Investing in clean energy can also help unlock transformative opportunities for the region in terms of regional cooperation, livelihoods, health and economic growth.
Environment	The nexus between Climate, Environment and Blue Economy is a priority in the GHA region and GHA coastal states and is critical for resilience, food security, biodiversity and carbon sequestration. Degradation of environmental systems and coast areas (deforestation and land, wetlands, biodiversity degradation) reduce the ability of ecosystems to buffer against climate hazards and accelerate warming and changes in climate patterns.

Priority Sectors	Rationale
Health	Priority sector in the GFCS and in the GHA region given the rise of climate-sensitive diseases and outbreaks (e.g. Malaria, dengue) and limited health systems capacity. There is also a strong nexus between health and food security and malnutrition and the impact of extreme events (droughts, floods) on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).
Water	Priority sector in the GFCS and in the region given unreliable water sources water insecurity due to droughts, irregular rainfall and rising temperatures. Water security and availability directly impacts agriculture, health, livelihoods and regional stability particularly in transboundary water basins.

The priority sectors will be pursued and implemented through existing UIPs or through Technical Working Groups (TWGs) created for that purpose.

The UIPs/TWGs will be responsible for the ongoing activities under each priority sector, including:

- Acts as a platform for sharing/discussing information and advisories required for decision-making in each of the sectors
- Co-design and co-produce climate products and services/early warning advisories in the UIPs/TWGs
- Identify and request data and products required to address the needs of the UIPs/TWGs
- Identify capacity needs for climate services and capacity development for cross-sector data integration and modelling
- Collate feedback within the UIPs/TWGs on improvement of climate products, access and their use
- Ensure climate information/EW products are effectively communicated, interpreted and understood within the UIPs/TWGs members
- Represent the RFCS/region at sectoral/climate-related forums.

Each UIPs/TWGs will be constituted of:

- ICPAC Sector Head (for that sector)
- IGAD and EAC related divisions (if applicable)
- International/humanitarian/development agencies
- Regional /transboundary organisations
- Research Institutes

3.3.6. The NMHSs/NFCSs

The NMHSs are a priority in the region given their role in the provision of climate data at national level which supports key economic sectors, supports early warning and disaster risk reduction and contribute to climate resilience development and informed decisions and planning.

The NMHSs and the RCC share responsibilities at different levels of interventions and are expected to closely collaborate within the WMO GFCS model. The RFCS-GHA activities should avoid duplication of efforts already undertaken at national level (e.g. impact-based forecasts provided by the NMHS at national level) and instead support NMHSs through their NFCSs Strategic Pillars.

The UIP/TWG on NMHSs will be composed of the NFCSs focal points (or appointed representatives) and the ICPAC RFCS pillars experts.

3.3.7. The Enablers

The enablers are composed by the Regional and international organisations and initiatives that enable and/or influence the implementation of the RFCS through financial support, capacity building, advocacy

These include for example, donors, United Nations agencies, humanitarian agencies and the private sector.

3.4. RFCS-GHA alignment with key programmes and initiatives

As a Regional Framework, the RFCS-GHA sits within a complex landscape of nested climate-related legal frameworks, strategies and policies. In this context, it is crucial that the RFCS-GHA fits with key existing framings and ongoing initiatives not only to ensure adequate strategic alignment and integration but also to coordinate and leverage where possible on potential opportunities that may arise.

3.4.1. Global and African Strategies and Initiatives

Table 6 – Global and African strategies and initiatives relevant for the RFCS-GHA

Global/African Strategies and Initiatives		RFCS-GHA Alignment
Sustainable Development Goals	The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all people by 2030.	The RFCS-GHA directly aligns with the SDG 13 on Climate Action but also supports efforts across many of the other SDGs particularly: SDG 2 Zero Hunger SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being SDG 5 Gender Equality SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy SDG 10 Reduce Inequality SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	The Sendai Framework aims to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk by implementing integrated and inclusive measures to increase preparedness and strengthen resilience.	The RFCS-GHA is well lined up with the Sendai Framework as its aims to improve current knowledge and regional governance and coordination to help address climate-related risks and enhance resilience in the context of DRM, risk assessment and data sharing, early warning systems, and response capacity.
Early Warning for All initiative	The Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative aims to ensure universal protection from hazardous hydrometeorological, climatological and related environmental events through life-saving multi-hazard early warning systems, anticipatory action and resilience efforts by the end of 2027. The EW4ALL is supported by 4 pillars: Disaster Risk Knowledge Detection, Observation, Monitoring, Analysis and Forecasting Warning Dissemination and Communication Preparedness and Response Capabilities	The RFCS-GHA aligns well with all EW4ALL pillars by contributing to the enhancement of disaster risk knowledge, provision of climate data and forecasts, support the dissemination of risk knowledge across the region and supporting the coordination and response by regional organizations to member states.
The Paris Agreement	The Paris Agreement aims to strengthen global response to climate change by limiting global temperatures below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C; enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience to climate impacts; and align financial flows with low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.	The RFCS-GHA is very closely aligned with the Paris Agreement with the RFCS vision being of 'A resilient region that can better anticipate and manage the risks and harness opportunities arising from climate variability and change for sustainable development.'
Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want	The Africa Agenda 2063 is the continent's strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity rooted in Pan-Africanisms and the African Renaissance.	The RFCS-GHA is well lined up with the Agenda 2063 particularly in relation to its goals of inclusive and sustainable development as well as for progress and collective prosperity in Africa.
Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology 2021-2030	The Strategy focuses on supporting poverty reduction, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction by strengthening the capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to deliver timely, reliable, and tailored weather and climate information for sustainable development. It also aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.	The RFCS-GHA is well aligned with the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology by aiming to enhance NMHSs capacity to deliver fit for purpose climate information and products through e.g. the development and implementation of the NFCs in the region.
African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032)	It sets out the continental framework for collective action and enhanced cooperation on climate change issues, to improve livelihoods and well-being, promote adaptation capacity, and achieve low-emission, sustainable economic growth. It aims to: Build resilience in African communities, ecosystems, and economies. Support regional adaptation. Promote equitable and transformative low-emission, climate-resilient development pathways. Enhance Africa's capacity to mobilize resources and access technologies for ambitious climate action.	The RFCS-GHA is well aligned with the AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan by aiming to support climate change regional adaptation and increase its communities' resilience, support equitable climate-resilient development, and improve the region's capacity to mobilize resources and access innovative technologies towards climate resilience.

Global/African Strategies and Initiatives		RFCS-GHA Alignment
Kampala Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC)	It is a regional initiative focused on addressing the impacts of climate change on human mobility within the East and Horn of Africa. It involves collaboration between EAC, IGAD and other regional actors to enhance cooperation and action in response to climate-related displacement, particularly focusing on areas like desertification, extreme weather events, and unplanned migration.	The RFCS-GHA is well aligned with the Kampala Declaration as it also focuses on the nexus between conflict, security and climate and related activities proposed as part of the framework.
Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods	Aims to reaffirm African Union member states' commitment to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and to set new goals for agricultural transformation. Key commitments include (not exhaustive): Halve poverty through inclusive agricultural growth and transformation. Boost intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services. Enhance resilience of livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and other risks.	The RFCS-GHA is in line with the Malabo Declaration and the CAADP by aiming to enhance resilience of the agriculture sector and livelihoods to climate risks and impacts in the region.

3.4.2. IGAD Key Programmes and Strategies

Table 7 - IGAD programmes and strategies relevant for the RFCS-GHA

IGAD Key Programmes and Strategies		RFCS-GHA Alignment
IGAD Development Strategy 2021-2025	IGAD's vision is for a "resilient, peaceful, prosperous, and integrated region where citizens enjoy high quality of life." And its mission to "Promote regional cooperation and integration to support Member States' efforts in achieving peace, security, and prosperity." The strategy focuses on four strategic pillars: Agriculture, Natural Resources, Environment & Climate/ Disaster Risk Management Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration Social Development Peace and Security	The RFCS-GHA directly aligns with the IGAD Development Strategy strategic pillars by focusing on the priority areas such as agriculture, DRM, health, and conflict and security and by aiming to foster regional cooperation and integration and contribute to wider goals such as sustainable and social development.
IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy (2023-2030)	The IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy aligns with IGAD's broader development agenda, AU Agenda 2063, Paris Agreement, and SDGs. The Strategy vision is for "A climate-resilient, peaceful, prosperous, and integrated region where all people enjoy a high quality of life." With an overarching goal "To provide a framework for coordinated climate adaptation actions that build resilience and reduce vulnerability." It is underpinned by four strategic objectives: Support development and implementation of climate adaptation policies at all levels. Strengthen adaptive capacity and resilience of vulnerable populations. Improve climate adaptation knowledge management and institutional capacity. Promote harmonized adaptation policies, cooperation, and inclusive sustainable development.	The RFCS-GHA neatly aligns with the IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy for 2023-2030 by enabling greater coordination and integration between key regional stakeholders operating in climate change and supporting the implementation of adaptation efforts on the ground as well as addressing their priorities regarding climate data and products.
IGAD Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (2019-2030)	The IGAD Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management aims to reduce disaster and climate risks through comprehensive disaster risk management for sustainable development. Key objectives of the strategy include: Strengthen DRM institutions, capacities, and mechanisms in Member States in a holistic and gender-sensitive manner. Mainstream DRM and climate change adaptation into IGAD and Member States' development plans and sectoral policies. Provide a regional mechanism for collaboration and partnership in DRM. Integrate DRM with climate adaptation, conflict management, and development frameworks (e.g. Agenda 2063, SDGs).	The RFCS-GHA aligns with the IGAD Regional Strategy for DRM as it provides a regional mechanism for collaboration between regional organisations operating in the climate services realm including DRM. It also aligns in relation to efforts to mainstream climate and DRM knowledge across the region and support climate change-related efforts on the ground.

IGAD Key Programmes and Strategies		RFCS-GHA Alignment
IGAD Institutional and Operational Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action	Disasters in Eastern Africa are increasing in frequency and impact, especially climate and weather-related hazards. In this context, Early Warning Systems (EWS) are essential to save lives, protect livelihoods, and reduce disaster losses. The IGAD Institutional and Operational Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action aims to: Establish a multi-hazard early warning system (MHEWS) at regional and national levels. Strengthen coordination among IGAD Member States (MS), the region, and the continent. Support early actions to avoid or mitigate disasters, rather than merely reacting to them.	The RFCS-GHA aligns with the Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action by forging and enhancing collaboration between organizations operating in/with early warning systems in the region and by supporting early action in response to potential hazards and impacts.
IGAD Regional Roadmap for Anticipatory Action	The IGAD Regional Roadmap for Anticipatory Action (AA) offers a comprehensive, regionally coordinated approach to shift from reactive disaster response to proactive, anticipatory action — ultimately protecting lives, livelihoods, and promoting resilience in the IGAD region. The Roadmap for AA aims to: Strengthen early warning systems (EWS) and decision-support tools. Enhance capacity to design and implement AA. Promote data collection (disaggregated by gender, age, socio-economic status). Integrate AA into national/regional policies and systems. Support resource mobilization and partnerships. Strengthen IGAD's coordination role.	The RFCS-GHA aligns with the Regional Roadmap for AA by forging and enhancing collaboration between organizations operating in/with early warning systems in the region and by supporting early action and anticipatory action in response to potential hazards and impacts.

3.4.3. EAC Key Programmes and Strategies

Table 8 - EAC programmes and strategies relevant for the RFCS-GHA

EAC Key Programmes and Strategies		RFCS-GHA Alignment
East African Community Vision 2050	The EAC Vision for Socio-Economic Transformation and Development aims to Transform EAC into an upper-middle-income region with inclusive, secure, and politically united societies by 2050. It is underpinned by 5 pillars of transformation: Infrastructure development. Industrialization. Agriculture, food security, and rural transformation. Natural resources and environment management. Tourism, trade, and services.	The RFCS-GHA aligns with the EAC Community Vision for 2050 by focusing on some of the key priority areas such as agriculture and food security.
East African Community Development Strategy 2021-2026	The EAC Development Strategy aims to Transform the EAC into a stable, competitive, and sustainable lower-middle-income region by 2030. The Strategy covers 8 distinct priority areas, including: Strengthening peace, security, governance, and emergency response mechanisms. Enhancing productive and social sectors, including agriculture, industry, health, education, and social protection. Expanding regional infrastructure (transport, energy, ICT). Promoting institutional transformation, skills development, and research. Strengthening awareness and information dissemination on EAC integration	The RFCS-GHA lines up with the EAC Development Strategy particularly in relation to the efforts in enhancing productive sectors such as agriculture and health, strengthen emergency response mechanisms and supporting research.
East African Community Climate Change Master Plan (2011-2030)	The EAC Climate Change Master Plan aims to contribute to sustainable development in the EAC region through harmonized, coordinated strategies and actions to address climate change impacts and causes. It is underpinned by 3 strategic pillars: Adaptation — Top priority, focusing on reducing vulnerability and building resilience in socio-economic systems and ecosystems. Mitigation — Supporting efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions without compromising development. Research and observations — Monitoring, detection, and prediction of climate impacts to inform decisions.	The RFCS-GHA aligns well with the EAC Climate Change Master Plan as it focus on improve regional resilience and adaptation to climate impacts through better collaborations on climate products and services as well as support climate-related research and predictions to support decision-making.

3.5. Expected results and socio-economic benefits of implementing the RFCS-GHA

The implementation and operationalisation of the RFCS will be beneficial for the GHA region. Given its focus on key priority sectors and supporting NMHSs, it is anticipated that the RFCS-GHA will strengthen critical existing collaborations and/or forge new partnerships key to support a future “resilient region that can better anticipate and manage the risks and harness opportunities arising from climate variability and change for sustainable development” (RFCS-GHA Vision). The exact economic, social and environmental benefits (and value) of the RFCS-GHA implementation can only be assessed and determined during the operationalisation of the actions proposed. However, some of the anticipated RFCS-GHA benefits are described in the table below.

Table 9 – Anticipated economic, social and environmental benefits of implementing the RFCS-GHA

ECONOMIC BENEFITS	SOCIAL BENEFITS	ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS
Enhanced partnerships improving cost-effectiveness	Stronger regional collaboration enhances social resilience	Integrated strategies and improved technical capabilities support effective climate adaptation
Better alignment of funding with priority needs	Improved coordination leads to inclusive climate service delivery	Better modelling and data use strengthens environmental-related decision-making
More efficient resource mobilization and use	GESI-transformative approaches empower marginalized groups and ensure equitable access	Streamlined governance improves environmental monitoring and action
Reduced disaster recovery costs due to early warning	Inclusion of diverse users improves the relevance of services	Improved observation networks support ecosystem monitoring
Impact-based forecasting reduces costs of inaction	Tailored services increase trust and uptake among users	Integration of remote sensing enhances environmental data accuracy
Improved forecasts reduce economic losses in sectors like agriculture and water	Empowered institutions through knowledge transfer	Improved models help anticipate and mitigate impacts on water, agriculture, and biodiversity
User engagement leads to climate services that support economic planning	Inclusive platforms ensure broad stakeholder engagement	Timely alerts help mitigate effects of climate hazards
Reduced economic losses from weather extremes through co-produced solutions	Sector-specific products to key users improve service delivery and better public services	Harmonized systems improve coordinated environmental responses
Supports innovation-driven growth, job creation and improved skilled workforce	Effective early warnings save lives and protect vulnerable populations	Coordinated advisories improve environmental risk management
Investment in human capital boosts long-term economic development, skilled workforce and increase productivity	RFCS-GHA builds scientific and technical capacity in the region	User feedback loops improve environmental relevance of climate products

It is advised to conduct a valuation of the benefits and value of the RFCS-GHA (potentially focusing on specific actions that are expected to yield most impact and benefit) taking advantage of the MEL framework, governance structure and the communication and outreach strategy and the opportunities that these bring in relation to opportunities for stakeholder engagement and feedback collection.



04

ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING THE RFCS-GHA

This section presents the RFCS-GHA strategic goal, objectives, and proposed actions which will be implemented in pursuit of its vision, mission, and core values.

These strategic elements were informed and developed based on policies, regulations, and strategies that guide the provision of climate services within the region including those for IGAD and EAC. They were also informed by the needs of key climate-sensitive sectors – Agriculture, Conflict and Security, DRM, Energy, Health, and Water - and whose performance and productivity are significantly impacted by climate variability and extremes (as described in section 2.4. above).

Together, these strategic components provide a coherent framework for the development, delivery, and application of climate services that are timely, relevant, accessible, and actionable—thereby supporting informed decision-making and climate resilience in the Greater Horn of Africa region.

4.1 RFCS-GHA Strategic Goal, Objectives, and Activities

The RFCS-GHA OVERARCHING STRATEGIC GOAL is to 'Create effective coordination mechanisms for Implementing RFCS-GHA'.

The RFCS-GHA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES are:

1. Actualize RFCS governance, operational structures and sustainability – Covers all the activities required to develop and implement the RFCS e.g. setting up of the various governance committees and units, formalise regional collaborations and revise key RFCS-related strategies e.g. resource mobilization and MEL framework.
2. Support member states in establishing and implementing climate services across the NFCSS strategic pillars – This strategic objective encompasses all the activities focusing on member states in supporting the development and implementation of their NFCSS across all the GFCS strategic pillars.
3. Strengthen and harmonize regional observations and monitoring systems for improved climate services delivery – Covers the activities on high-quality historical climate data and drivers of regional climate variability and change, regional data infrastructure, expanding existing networks and regional data standards and quality control protocols.
4. Strengthen (interdisciplinary) research, modelling and innovation in climate services – Focuses on understanding multi-timescale drivers of climate variability, enhance accuracy

of climate forecasting and operational efficiency, enhance sub-seasonal to decadal forecasting systems for operational support and develop expertise on emerging technologies and innovations.

5. Enhance the mechanism to access, manage and process data and generate and communicate climate information and sector-specific products – Covers a range of activities including facilitating evidence-based decision-making in climate sensitive sectors, support anticipatory action, enhance sectoral planning and coordinated responses amongst stakeholders, upgrade HPC infrastructure, mainstream GESI dimensions and approaches to climate services, etc.
6. Enhance the access and usability of regional climate services through User Interface Platforms (UIPs) – Focuses on all activities related to co-production and feedback mechanisms.
7. Strengthen the capacity building of regional stakeholders to provide and use climate services – Covers the activities on enhancing the capacity of climate information users across key sectors.
8. Each of the strategic objectives is composed by activities that are expected to be implemented through the RFCS-GHA. These are described in the table below.

Table 10 – RFCS-GHA Strategic Objective and activities.

Strategies Objectives	Activities
1. Actualize RFCS governance, operational structures and sustainability	1.1. Establish and run the RFCS Secretariat
	1.2. Constitute and operationalize the Inter-RECs Policy Committee on Climate Services
	1.3. Constitute and operationalize the Inter-RECs Technical Committee on Climate Services
	1.4. Constitute and operationalize the RFCS Cross-Sectoral Technical Group
	1.5. Constitute and operationalize Technical Working Groups in priority sectors
	1.6. Constitute and/or Strengthen User Interface Platforms (UIPs) in priority sectors and develop their Terms of Reference (TORs) to guide operations
	1.7. Develop an implementation plan for the RFCS Secretariat
	1.8. Revise, consolidate and implement the RFCS communication and outreach strategy

Strategies Objectives	Activities
	1.9. Revise, consolidate and implement the resource mobilization strategy of the RFCS
	1.10. Promote and formalize collaboration and partnerships in the implementation of RFCS (e.g. through MOUs agreements and standardized protocols)
	1.11. Revise, consolidate and implement the RFCS Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework
	1.12. Ensure adequate integration of Gender and Social Inclusion dimensions across RFCS relevant activities
2. Support member states in establishing and implementing climate services across the NFCSS strategic pillars	2.1. Build the technical capacity of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs)
	2.2 Support Member States with the development, review and implementation of National Framework for Climate Service
	2.3. Consolidate needs assessment on existing observation and maintenance networks across Member States
	2.4. Expand ground observation networks e.g. upgrade and densify meteorological, hydrological, and environmental monitoring
3. Strengthen and harmonize regional observations and monitoring systems for improved climate services delivery	3.1 Synthesize high-quality historical climate data and analyse key drivers of regional climate variability and change
	3.2. Develop Regional Data Infrastructure
4. Strengthen (interdisciplinary) research, modelling and innovation in climate services	4.1. Understand multi-timescale drivers of climate variability
	4.2. Enhance accuracy of climate forecasting and operational efficiency
	4.3. Assess and enhance sub-seasonal to decadal forecasting systems to support operational application
	4.4. Develop specialized expertise in emerging technologies and innovations
5. Enhance the mechanism to access, manage and process data and generate and communicate climate information and sector-specific products	5.1. Facilitate evidence-based decision-making among users in climate sensitive sectors
	5.2 Revamp GHACOF
	5.3 Support anticipatory actions across sectors
	5.4 Enhance sectoral planning and coordinated responses among stakeholders
	5.4 Enhance the accuracy and reliability of forecasts to strengthen early warning systems

Strategies Objectives	Activities
	5.5 Upgrade HPC infrastructure to meet emerging needs of the climate scientific team
	5.6. Mainstream Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) transformative approaches to climate services
6. Enhance the access and usability of regional climate services through User Interface Platforms (UIPs)	6.1. Strengthen co-production and feedback mechanisms
7. Strengthen the capacity building of regional stakeholders to provide and use climate services	7.1. Enhance the capacity of climate information users across key sectors

A comprehensive Costed Action Plan is presented in Appendix 2 which provides information on expected outputs and KPIs and associated costs for each of the RFCS strategic objectives and activities.

4.2 RFCS-GHA Risk Matrix

The RFCS-GHA Risk Matrix identifies key risks to the implementation of the RFCS-GHA and proposes mitigation measures to address those risks. Proactive risk management also allows us to identify and seize emerging opportunities that can yield strategic benefits such as improved institutional preparedness, enhanced credibility of services, and strengthened partnerships.

The RFCS Secretariat, with support from regional institutions and NMHSs, will lead the coordination and update of the Risk Matrix. Annual reviews of the Matrix will ensure adequate oversight and management of the risks identified as well as identify emerging risks that may arise due to internal/external factors to the RFCS.

A range of potential risks has been identified in the process of developing the RFCS. These risks have been prioritized based on their likelihood of occurrence and potential impact on the implementation and outcomes of the RFCS. The table below provides the Risk Matrix which summarizes the main risks identified, their assigned risk level and recommended mitigation measures.

Table 11 – RFCS-GHA Risk Matrix

RISK DESCRIPTION	RISK IMPACT	RISK PROBABILITY*	RISK LEVEL**	MITIGATION MEASURES
RFCS alignment with other climate-related policies and strategies' alignment	Lack of alignment with existing policies and strategies	Low	Low	Ensure adequate alignment between RFCS and sectoral and regional policies and strategies
Low buy-in from key regional institutions in the implementation of the RFCS-GHA	Limited implementation of the RFCS-GHA action plan activities	Moderate	Medium	Ensure early engagement with relevant organisations (and institutional focal points) and continuous follow up
Limited coordination and collaboration mechanisms between key regional organisations	Delays in finalizing and approving MoU between regional organisations	Moderate	High	Ensure early engagement with relevant organisations (and institutional focal points) and continuous follow up; ensure RFCS-GHA governance structures are operational
Limited access to financial resources for the implementation of the RFCS	Limited access to financial resources to implement proposed activities	Moderate	Medium	Early engagement and implementation of resources mobilization strategy
Inadequate capacity for resource mobilization	Limited ability to mobilize the financial resources required to implement all RFCS-GHA objectives and activities	Low	Low	Ensure ICPAC coordinates resource mobilization efforts within the RFCS-GHA consortium
Lack of technical resources in the region	Limited availability of in-region researchers and technical experts	Moderate	Medium	Capacity-building efforts and partnerships with academic institutions
High turnover of technical staff at key regional organisations	Slow/disrupted implementation of the RFCS-GHA; limited implementation in specific areas of the framework	Moderate	Medium	Develop partner agreements with clear roles and develop institutional memory strategies
Limited data availability and access	Delays or lack of sufficient data at national level to support development of fit-for-purpose regional climate products and services	Moderate	Medium	Support member states NMHSs on activities under objective 2
Support to NMHSs on their NFCs	Inadequate/limited support to NMHSs may result in fragmented national capacities and limited regional effectiveness	Moderate	Medium	Ensure support to NMHSs on developing and implementing their NFCs
Operationalise/ improve new/existing UIPs	Poor or ineffective UIP implementation can lead to low user engagement and inadequate climate services co-production and provision	Moderate	Medium	Ensure key stakeholder engagement across UIPs design or revamping processes, institutionalise feedback loops, ensure UIPs are allocated the necessary resources (technical and financial)

RISK DESCRIPTION	RISK IMPACT	RISK PROBABILITY*	RISK LEVEL**	MITIGATION MEASURES
Limited research and innovation	Limited progress on climate modelling, IBF-related research and in innovative areas such as AI and machine learning	Moderate	Medium	Develop partnerships with research institutions and secure funding for regional innovation programs
Political instability in the region	Limited and/or delayed implementation of the RFCS-GHA particularly in countries affected	Moderate	Medium	Ensure RCC and RECs provide necessary support to countries where possible
Changes in political leadership	Affect support for RFCS-GHA	Low	Low	Secure political endorsement by RECs as part of the RFCS-GHA
Long term sustainability of the RFCS-GHA	Limited mechanisms for adequately institutionalising the outputs of the RFCS-GHA Action Plan	Moderate	Medium	Formalise collaborations between institutions; embed outputs into existing policy and working protocols; showcase RFCS-GHA through political support and communication and outreach strategy

*Risk probability corresponds to the likelihood of that particular risk occurring

**Risk level is a combined assessment of the risk probability with the risk impact.

4.3. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework

A Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework is essential to track the progress being made towards the intended objectives and actions of the RFCS-GHA.

MEL activities can also help:

Assess the effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability of RFCS interventions

Inform evidence-based decision-making, adaptive management, and continuous improvement

Enhance accountability to stakeholders, including member states, partners, and funding agencies

Box 3 – Key concepts in MEL

MONITORING – ongoing collection and analysis of indicators to monitor the progress of the RFCS-GHA strategic objectives and activities

EVALUATION – assessment of the impact of the implementation of the RFCS-GHA in the region

LEARNING – a reflexive assessment based on the M&E components to improve, adapt and learn from the RFCS-GHA

The RFCS-GHA proposed MEL framework is presented in Table 12 below and organised around the six strategic objectives of the RFCS-GHA. The

RFCS-GHA Secretariat will be responsible for preparing an annual MEL report. The MEL annual report should be shared and reviewed with RFCS committees and member organisations e.g. through performance review meetings.

In addition to the annual monitoring activities, the RFCS-GHA Secretariat will also be responsible for conducting an evaluation of the impact of the RFCS objectives and actions in the region. Impact evaluations provide useful insights on the effectiveness of the RFCS-GHA in relation to its overall intended impact and value to the region as well as supporting wider accountability, credibility and advocacy of the RFCS to partner organisations, member states and funders.

It is important to note that impact evaluations can also be aligned and/or complemented with methodologies/approaches that can be used to assess the socio-economic impacts and value of climate services (see section 2.5.). Examples of impact evaluation questions include:

- What significant changes have occurred in climate service governance and coordination in the region since RFCS implementation?
- How has the RFCS-GHA contributed to strengthening NFCSs in member states?
- What improvements in preparedness and resilience can be linked to RFCS-GHA climate products, services and interventions?

- To what extent have sectoral decisions improved due to RFCS-GHA data and products?
- How inclusive and equitable are the impacts, particularly for marginalized or vulnerable groups?

The RFCS-GHA impact evaluation questions should be co-developed with the Inter-REC Steering Committee and the Cross-Sectoral Technical Group to ensure it covers all relevant aspects that need assessing to help inform the future of the framework in the region.

This should be a part of an evaluation strategy to be developed as part of action 1.10 of the RFCS. It is suggested that this type of evaluation is pursued every two years and a report produced for further dissemination.

The learning component of the MEL framework makes use of the findings from the M&E components to help understand and learn from the implementation of the RFCS-GHA. The learning component can focus on different questions/themes depending on what priorities for learning in relation to the RFCS are e.g. What approaches have been most effective in strengthening NFCSs across member states? How are climate services being used differently across sectors and regions? How effective are gender and social inclusion strategies in RFCS implementation?

The learning component can be pursued via different methods e.g. reflective workshops, case studies, surveys; a strategy for pursuing it should also be developed as part of Strategic Objective 1 of the RFCS-GHA.

Strategic Objective	Activities	Proposed indicators	Data Sources/ Methods	Frequency	Responsibility	Use of Data/ Learning
1. Actualize RFCS governance, operational structures and sustainability	Activities under Objective 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat office equipped and staffed - Number of key positions filled (% female) - Number of committees formed - Number of meetings held per year - % of members attending - Number of strategic documents revised and finalised: MEL framework, GESI plan, Communication Strategy, Resource Mobilisation Strategy 	HR contracts Office setup verification Committees ToRs Meeting reports Communication materials and survey reports	Quarterly/ Annually	RFCS Secretariat	Track institutional establishment, ensure inclusive governance, adapt strategies
2. Support member states in establishing and implementing climate services across NFCSs strategic pillars	Activities under Objective 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of NMHS staff trained (by gender/role) - % of NMHSs reporting improved forecast production - Number of NFCS developed/reviewed/implemented - Number of upgraded/maintained/densified observations stations 	Training reports, evaluation forms, NFCS documents. Technical reports	Bi-annually/ Annually	Technical Working Groups, NMHSs National Focal Points	Identify capacity gaps, inform training plans, guide investment in infrastructure
3. Strengthen and harmonize regional observations and monitoring systems for improved climate services delivery	Activities under Objective 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of regional bulletins produced (10-day, monthly, seasonal, climate watch) - Number of Annual "State of Climate" reports produced (regional and continental) - Number of climate drivers/thresholds reports published - Number of standardised tools adopted - Regional data repository and standards operational 	Reports Systems logs Data system documentation, protocols	Annually	RFCS Secretariat and ICPAC experts	Improve quality & usability of climate monitoring products, harmonize data

Strategic Objective	Activities	Proposed indicators	Data Sources/ Methods	Frequency	Responsibility	Use of Data/ Learning
4. Strengthen (interdisciplinary) research, modelling and innovation in climate services	Activities under Objective 4	- Number of peer-reviewed publications - Number of customised regional climate models - Number of AI/ML tools/models developed and piloted - Number of young scientists mentored - Regional Centre of Excellence established	Publications Research reports Training/mentorship reports	Annually	RFCS Secretariat and ICPAC experts	Strengthen scientific credibility, drive innovation, and build regional expertise
5. Enhance the mechanism to access, manage and process data and generate and communicate climate information and sector-specific products	Activities under Objective 5	- Number of climate bulletins produced (e.g. weekly, sub-seasonal, seasonal) - Number of GHACOFs co-organised - Number of IBF tools developed and verified - HPC assessment and upgrades completed - GESI action plan implemented in service delivery	Bulletins published GHACOF reports HPC technical reports GESI monitoring reports	Monthly/Annually	RFCS Secretariat, ICPAC experts, Partner Institutions	Improve reliability of forecasts, strengthen anticipatory action, expand inclusivity
6. Enhance the access and usability of regional climate services through UIPs	Activities under Objective 6	- Number of GHACOFs/NCOFs/Cross-Border Forums held - Number of UIPs strengthened - GESI communication strategy developed and implemented	Forums reports UIP records and reports GESI monitoring reports	Annually	RFCS Secretariat, Sectoral Leads, NMHSs focal points	Track user engagement, ensure equitable dissemination, improve communication channels
7. Strengthen the capacity building of regional stakeholders to provide and use climate services	Activities under Objective 7	- Number of training sessions delivered - Number of ICPAC Summer Schools - Number of sector-specific trainings - Number of journalists trained (disaggregated) - % of users reporting improved decision-making	Training reports Evaluation surveys	Annually	RFCS Secretariat, ICPAC experts, Partner institutions	Monitor uptake of climate information, strengthen resilience, improve user literacy

4.4. Integration of Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion

The effective integration and consideration of Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) aspects in the RFCS-GHA is critical given the impact that climate change has in exacerbating existing social and gender inequalities as well the climate-related vulnerability of these groups as they tend to face higher risks and have lower capacity to adapt. For example, women and socially excluded groups often hold unique knowledge about local environments, resource management and community coping mechanisms.

In addition, children require special protection as without child-sensitive measures, climate interventions risk reinforcing exclusion and passing vulnerabilities to the next generation. It is therefore critical that the RFCS supports climate products

and services that are tailored to the needs of these groups through meaningful participation.

Although the participation and involvement of these groups may occur at a very localised level, it is key that their specific needs in terms of climate services (specifically those produced at regional level) are captured in in the TWGs either through the UIPs and/or through the knowledge and expertise of regional organisations working with these groups.

As such, considerations on how to best include GESI dimensions in the RFCS-GHA is key to ensure the provision of effective and accessible regional climate services in support of equitable services or interventions on the ground. This also aligns with key frameworks and initiatives including the Paris Agreement, the UN SDG 5 on Gender Equality and the 'Leave No One Behind' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is important to note however, that the RFCS-GHA is a regional framework and, as such, the integration of GESI considerations in the framework need to be adequately targeted to the level of intervention possible in a regional framework.

Key steps taken towards integrating GESI dimensions into the RFS-GHA development and future implementation include:

- GESI as one of the Core Values of the RFCS-GHA
- Target of including at least 30% women's representation in all proposed RFCS-GHA Committees
- Gender-balanced participation in GHACOFs and other regional forums
- Dedicated financial resources for hiring a GESI expert to develop a full strategy for the implementation of GESI dimensions across the RFCS-GHA
- Commitment to ensure adequate integration of GESI dimensions across RFCS relevant activities as a specific action under Strategic Objective 1 of the RFCS Action Plan
- Commitment to mainstream GESI transformative approaches to climate services as a specific action under Strategic Objective 6 of the RFCS Action Plan
- Inclusion of GESI indicators as part of the MEL framework
- MEL data collection is disaggregated by gender, age, disability and other relevant factors (when appropriate).

A GESI expert is also expected to be hired to support and consolidate the integration of GESI considerations across the RFCS-GHA at the beginning of its implementation to ensure that these are adequately included across relevant components of the RFCS actions but also in other RFCS-related strategies e.g. MEL framework, communication strategy, etc.

4.5. Communicating the RFCS-GHA

A comprehensive, multi-channel communication strategy is essential to maximize the effectiveness, reach, and impact of the RFCS-GHA during its implementation. This strategy ensures that the framework's vision, goals, objectives, and actions are clearly conveyed to all stakeholders while fostering two-way engagement and feedback.

The main objectives of the communication strategy will be to:

- Showcase and disseminate the RFCS-GHA

across the region

- Increase awareness and understanding of climate services in the GHA region
- Support policy integration
- Strengthen partnerships and attract resources
- Promote user-driven, co-produced climate information

The review, consolidation and implementation of the RFCS-GHA communication and outreach strategy is expected under RFCS-GHA objective 1 action 1.8. and will be the responsibility of the communication's expert as part of the RFCS Secretariat. Key components in the communication and outreach strategy are proposed in the table below.

Table 13 – Key components of the RFCS-GHA communication and outreach strategy

Components	Details
Identify and map key audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policymakers and decision-makers (Continental, Regional, National) • Climate service providers and users (RCC, NMHSs, Regional Organisations, Research Institutes; private sector actors, civil society organizations, INGOs) • Development partners and donors • Media organizations
Tailored messaging	Aligned with goal of the message these tailored messages should be actionable, relevant, clear but also legitimate and scientifically sound and culturally and linguistically appropriate.
Explore and leverage existing communication channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Platforms (e.g. dedicated regional climate services website/ portal as the central hub for data, forecasts, success stories, and learning resources). • Social media platforms (X, Facebook, LinkedIn) for real-time updates and public engagement. • Email newsletters and targeted mailing lists for updating specific stakeholders. • Online webinars and workshops for capacity building and interactive discussions. • Direct engagement and outreach (e.g. at GHACOF for co-production of information and participatory dialogue) • Policy briefs and technical reports targeting decision-makers. • Success stories and case studies showcasing real-world impact. • Events and Conferences (Regional climate summits, conferences and events to showcase progress of the RFCS-GHA and strengthen partnerships); Side events at global and international fora to increase visibility and attract support.

Components	Details
Communicating Progress, Challenges, and Successes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual progress reports detailing key achievements, statistics (e.g., number of products disseminated, users reached). Stakeholder meetings to present progress and gather feedback. Transparent communication about data gaps, capacity constraints, and funding challenges. "Lessons learned" reports documenting challenges and adaptive strategies. Success stories and case studies highlighting measurable community benefits (e.g., improved food security, reduced flood damages). Awards and recognition of outstanding contributions. Media features and user testimonials to showcase positive impact and build trust.
Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms	<p>Define indicators to track reach, engagement, outcomes, and impact.</p> <p>Plan for feedback collection (surveys, focus groups, online feedback mechanisms).</p> <p>Use M&E findings to adapt and improve the strategy continuously.</p>

The implementation of the strategy should be reviewed regularly and adequately adjusted as and when required to stay relevant and effective considering the RFCS-GHA changing needs.

4.6. Resource mobilization and finance

The estimated costs of each of the Strategic Objectives have been used to prepare the results-based budget for implementing the RFCS Action Plan, detailed in the table below. The total budget to implement the RFCS Action Plan, detailed in the table 14 below, is estimated at 38.7 million USD. Appendix 2 provides a comprehensive Costed Action Plan for each sub-activity expected under each of the RFCS-GHA Strategic Objective.

Table 14 – Budget breakdown by RFCS Strategic Objective for implementing the Action Plan.

	Year/Budget USD '000'						
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total	% of total
1	619.2	280.2	315.2	280.2	326.2	1821	4.7%
2	1368.5	1266.5	1465.5	965.5	865.5	5931.5	15.3%
3	388.1	459.1	388.1	388.1	388.1	2011.5	5.2%
4	407.8	407.8	856.8	906.8	906.8	3486	9%
5	4311.2	4096.2	4859.2	4781.2	4801.2	22849	59.1%
6	191.2	151.2	151.2	141.2	141.2	776	2%
7	347.8	347.8	362.8	367.8	362.8	1789	4.6%
Total	7633.8	7008.8	8398.8	7830.8	7791.8	38664	100%
% of total	19.7%	18.1%	21.7%	20.3%	20.2%	100%	

The RFCS-GHA Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) outlines how the framework will secure the financial and technical resources required for its successful implementation. The strategy recognises the current reliance on short-term, donor-driven funding and aims to move toward long-term, sustainable financing through diversified sources. The strategy aims to:

- Secure financial sustainability of the RFCS-GHA
- Mobilise necessary resources to support the implementation of the RFCS-GHA
- Build strategic partnerships with donors, governments, private sector and other actors
- Strengthen institutional capacity (within the RFCS-GHA consortium) to manage and use funds effectively

The RFCS-GHA RMS should align with global, regional and national climate-related priorities. The strategy should also aim to be sustainable, transparent, inclusive and underpinned by a results-based approach.

Table 15 – Key steps of the RFCS-GHA resource mobilization strategy.

Key Steps of the RMS	
Financial needs assessment	A reviewed assessment of the financial resources required to implement the RFCS-GHA should be pursued in the short-term (i.e. first 6 months of the RFCS-GHA implementation)
Identify funding sources	Several potential funding sources have already been identified including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilateral Donors e.g. World Bank, GCF, AfDB, EU. • Bilateral Agencies e.g., USAID, GIZ, FCDO, JICA. • Public and private funds e.g. Africa Climate Change Fund, Adaptation Fund, Africa Green Transition PPP fund, African Risk Capacity, Africa Finance Corporation – EIB Infrastructure Climate Resilient Fund. • Private Sector particularly from sectors like insurance, agriculture, energy, and finance. • Philanthropic Foundations such as Rockefeller, Gates Foundation, Climate Works, etc. • RECs who may co-fund or integrate services into existing programmes. • Funding from Member States via IGAD and EAC contributions.
Engagement strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key resources and respective funding mechanisms/programmes (based on step 2) that can be leveraged on to fund RFCS-GHA activities. It is advised to develop a 'live' database of donor/funder opportunities to capture information on: • Forthcoming funder/donor opportunities (short, medium and long-term funding opportunities) • Alignment of RFCS-GHA activities with donor priorities and funding opportunities (ideally with identified targets and timeline) • Develop rationale for investment and value proposition for each opportunity (e.g. impact of funding in the region; return on investment; alignment with global/regional priorities e.g. SDGs, Sendai Framework) • Identify optimal strategy for engagement for each specific donor/funder e.g. political endorsement and advocacy; donor forums; targeted engagement/one-to-one discussions. • Develop targeted pitching for specific funders/donors (e.g. concept notes, proposals, one-page brief, verbal presentations at donor conferences/forums, video pitches, etc). A checklist for pitching for resources is provided in Appendix 3.
Mobilisation tools	Based on step 3 develop tools to help mobilize the necessary resources. Depending on the donor/ funding opportunity different tools can be explored including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project proposals to address specific RFCS-GHA objectives/activities • Investment plans for specific costed RFCS-GHA activities and expected results • Climate funds/Innovation challenges that come out to address specific innovation needs • Blended financial models such as public/private financing schemes
Implementation and monitoring of resources	The RFCS-GHA Secretariat should act as the dedicated coordinator for the overall RMS with support from regional partners involved in the RFCS-GHA. It is advised to also set up a system (which can be part of the donors' opportunities database described above) to help manage and track progress (i.e. help manage funds acquired and reporting to donors) as well as evaluation of the impact of the funding (in the implementation of the RFCS-GHA and wider impacts in the region). The team managing the RMS should also be experienced in compliance with donor requirements such as audits, procurement processes and MEL.

The RMS should be revised and consolidated in the first 6 months of the RFCS-GHA implementation to further refine the costs and financial investment required to implement the activities together with key regional partners.

To minimise risks around limited funding it is advised to diversify funding sources as much as possible and build internal capacity to manage and sustain resource flows within the RFCS-GHA. Scalable pilots can also be used to help demonstrate success before seeking larger investments (particularly in new areas of intervention or research).

05

SUMMARY

The Regional Framework for Climate Services for the Greater Horn of Africa (RFCS-GHA) is a strategic initiative designed to improve coordination, development, and delivery of climate services across 11 countries in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA), including Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, and others. The region, home to over 420 million people, is highly vulnerable to climate variability and extreme events such as droughts, floods, and heat waves.

The RFCS-GHA is built upon the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and is led by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) in collaboration with IGAD and EAC. The framework aims to address key issues including fragmented governance, limited data sharing, underdeveloped early warning systems, and weak integration of climate information into policy and planning.

The RFCS-GHA vision is to create a resilient region capable of managing climate risks and leveraging opportunities for sustainable development. The mission is to foster coordinated regional mechanisms to provide actionable climate information for decision-making.

The RFCS-GHA governance structures include:

- An Inter-REC Policy Committee
- A Steering Committee
- A dedicated Secretariat at ICPAC
- A Cross-sectoral Technical Group
- Technical Working Groups (TWG) and/or User Interface Platforms (UIPs) focusing on priority sectors including Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Energy, Water, Disaster Risk Management, Environment, and Climate induced conflicts and displacement.
- There is also a TWG focusing specifically on supporting the NMHSs to develop/review/ implement their NFCSSs in the region.

The RFCS-GHA Action Plan outlines seven strategic objectives:

1. Establish and sustain the RFCS governance and operational structures.
2. Support member states in developing and implementing their National Frameworks for Climate Services (NFCSSs)
3. Strengthen and harmonize regional observations and monitoring systems for improved climate services delivery.
4. Strengthen interdisciplinary regional research

and innovation in climate services.

5. Enhance data access, management, and climate product dissemination.
6. Improve access and usability of services through enhanced User Interface Platforms.
7. Build capacity among stakeholders for effective climate services delivery.

Additional components of the plan include a risk matrix, monitoring and evaluation framework, communication strategy, gender and social inclusion integration, and a resource mobilisation strategy.



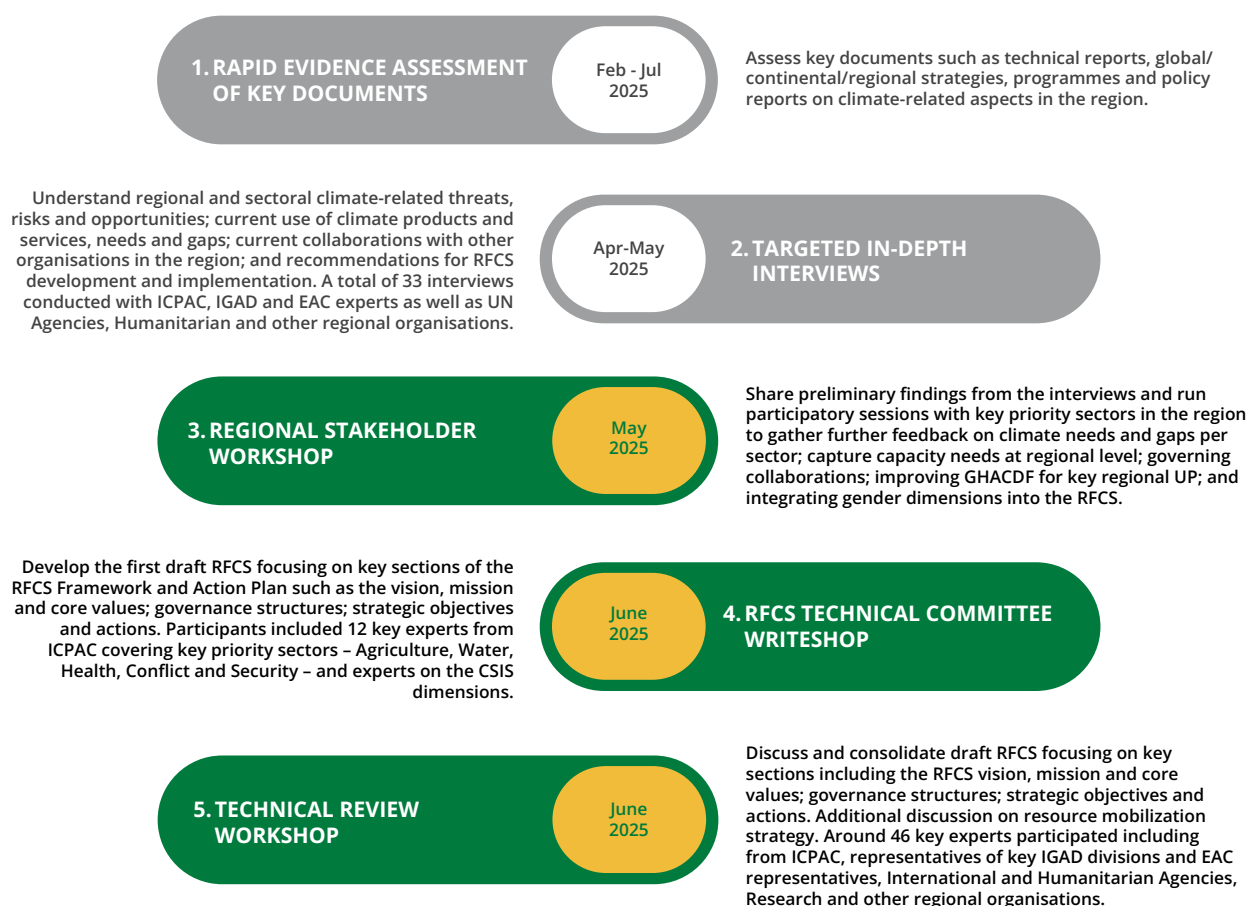
APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Key findings and recommendations from the stakeholders’ consultations

The development of the RFCS was initially pursued based on a baseline assessment which encompassed a rapid evidence assessment of documents and key targeted interviews (steps 1 and 2 of the diagram below). This initial assessment was then followed by three key stakeholders’ consultations which aimed to consolidate knowledge and collect further feedback from a wider range of stakeholders (steps 3 to 5 below):

- Regional Stakeholder Workshop
- RFCS Technical Write shop
- A Technical Review workshop

A summary of these stakeholders’ consultation activities and their key findings and recommendations are provided below.



a) Regional Stakeholder Workshop

A regional stakeholder workshop was conducted on 21st May 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia following GHACOF 70. The aim of this participatory workshop was to share preliminary findings from the interviews (e.g. regarding key challenges and gaps) and run separate participatory sessions with key priority sectors in the region to gather further feedback on specific topics.

These included climate needs and gaps per sector; explore capacity needs at regional level; governing collaborations; improving GHACOF as key regional UIP; and integrating Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) dimensions into the RFCS.

Around 90 participants across 9 priority sectors/groups - Agriculture and Food Security, Media, DRM, Health, Water and Energy, Livestock and Rangelands, climate security and peace, weather and climate, UNFCCC/IPCC -

attended the workshop. Of these, approximately 50% of the participants were based at national government institutions followed by 22% of participants based at intergovernmental or international organisations (e.g. IGAD, UN, EAC). The remaining were from media (8%), NMHS and NGOS (7% each), academia (3%) and other (3%).

The Workshop morning session aimed to explore with workshop participants key climate challenges in each of the sectors as well as identify the conditions required to overcome those challenges in the region. To achieve this, facilitators used a short online survey to capture key challenges identified by each participant followed by group discussions for prioritising key challenges per sector and the conditions required to address them through RFCS.

The afternoon session aimed to explore and discuss specific themes with each of the sectors on possible improvements to UIPs/GHACOF, explore options for governing RFCS and funding opportunities and integrating gender dimensions into the RFCS. This was a plenary session where participants from each sector discussed the themes at hand and proposed solutions. These were then reported back at the final session (session 3) for all the participants attending the regional stakeholder workshop.

Key recommendations from the regional workshop:

Themes Discussed	Key Recommendations
Improving GHACOF as part of the RFCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift focus to regional (rather than national) advisories (to also avoid duplication with NCOFs). • Consider cross-border dynamics for enhanced cross-border integration. • Consider cross-sectoral e.g. intersecting themes like climate-health-migration-nutrition-security. • Refine advisories to align with sectoral and transboundary priorities. • Desire for Impact-Based Advisories. • Graphical reporting, and fewer sectoral presentations (during GHACOF) to allow space for innovation and research. • Stronger coordination and harmonization of advisories (between regional and national levels). • Feedback and evaluation of GHACOF outputs usability at regional level. • Formalise GHACOF focal points roles through ToRs.
Governing collaborations in the RFCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalize joint planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation across sectors. • Develop Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for systematic data sharing, collaboration, and implementation protocols. • Establish Technical Working Groups (TWGs) with clear ToRs for regular engagement, updates, and collaborative planning. • Establish a RFCS coordination secretariat for overseeing collaboration across stakeholders. • Broaden participation by engaging research institutions, NGOs, humanitarian actors, and private sector partners at regional level. • Build institutional capacity through exchange visits, training programs, joint research, and advocacy platforms. • Conduct periodic reviews to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in collaboration.
Integrating GESI dimensions in the RFCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out GESI assessments to identify gaps and design transformative strategies. • Ensure climate services address the needs of vulnerable groups including women, elderly, children, and people with disabilities. • Collect and use GESI-disaggregated data for evidence-based decision making. • Develop GESI-responsive advisories and communication tools, tailored to cultural contexts and local languages (where appropriate). • Build institutional capacity for mainstreaming GESI into climate services through training and policy alignment. • Enhance participation of women and marginalized groups in dialogue, planning, and decision-making platforms.

Themes Discussed	Key Recommendations
Sector-Specific Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture & Food Security: Align sectoral advisories across borders; share lessons learned; integrate with other sectors for holistic planning. • Conflict & Security: Improve coordination, accountability, and gender analysis to understand conflict-climate linkages. • Disaster Risk Management (DRM): Map institutions and roles; integrate hydrological and seasonal forecasts; strengthen cross-border collaboration. • Health: Develop sector-specific advisories for cross-border issues; harmonize data protocols; strengthen partnerships between ministries, private sector, and regional organisations. • Livestock & Rangelands: Improve representation of pastoral communities; align GHACOF/NCOF outputs; build capacity for focal persons. • Media: Enhance media involvement in GHACOF planning, reporting, and evaluation; establish media taskforces; integrate GESI-sensitive reporting. • Water & Energy: Harmonize GHACOF–NCOF outputs; include solar, wind, and hydrological forecasts; strengthen expert training and continuity. • Weather & Climate: Make advisories actionable and user-specific; adopt harmonized methodologies; consider reforming forecast season cycles.

b) RFCS Technical Committee Writeshop

A technical write shop with the RFCS Technical Committee was organised for the week of June 9-13, 2025. This 5-day hands-on workshop aimed to jointly develop the first draft RFCS with key ICPAC experts focusing on specific critical sections of the RFCS Framework and Action Plan including:

- The RFCS vision, mission and core values
- RFCS governance structures and responsibilities
- RFCS strategic objectives and actions; and
- MEL and GESI elements

A total of 15 participants contributed to the write shop covering different areas of expertise within ICPAC including: Agriculture and Food Security; Water; Health; DRM; Livestock; Media; Monitoring and Observations; Sub-seasonal to Seasonal Forecasts; Research; and MEL.

The discussions were informed by findings from previous stakeholder engagement activities (i.e. in-depth interviews and regional stakeholders’ workshop) and were interactive throughout the week to allow continuous improvement and flexibility to discuss key areas deemed critical by participants.

Key areas developed during the write shop included the RFCS governance structure, the strategic objectives and activities as well as the vision, mission and core values underpinning the RFCS.

c) Technical Review Workshop

A Technical Review Workshop was conducted on the 26th and 27th of June 2025 in Kampala, Uganda. This technical workshop aimed to bring together key stakeholder organisations in the region to discuss and consolidate the draft RFCS developed during the Technical Committee write shop and collect further feedback based on the previous stakeholders’ consultations.

A total of 38 participants from a range of organisations attended the technical review workshop. These included experts from ICPAC, representatives of key IGAD divisions and EAC representatives, International and Humanitarian Agencies, Research organisations and other regional organisations.

Key areas discussed and revised during this technical workshop included the RFCS governance structure, the vision, mission and core values underpinning the RFCS, and the strategic objectives and activities. There was also significant discussion around resource mobilisation and how to best approach it in the context of the RFCS.

Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Target Outputs						Budget USD '000'							
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030				
Strategic Objective 1 - Actualize RFCS governance, operational structures and sustainability															
1.1. Establish and run the RFCS Secretariat	No of Procurement of workstations (desks, chairs, computers)	2									4	-	-	4	
	Package of Office consumables procured	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	
	Annual salary for RFCS Coordinator (P5)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					71.1	71.1	71.1	71.1	
	Annual salary for Finance Officer (P2)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					59.701	59.701	59.701	59.701	
	Annual salary for Administrative Officer (P3)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					66.597	66.597	66.597	66.597	
	MEL Consultant – 6 months contract	✓	-	-	-	✓					10	-	-	-	6
	GESI Consultant – 6 months contract	✓	-	-	-	-					10	-	-	-	-
	No of Constituting meetings -physical	1	-	-	-	-					35	-	-	-	-
	No of the Inter-RECS Policy Committee on Climate Services meetings-Physical	-	-	1	-	1					-	35	-	-	35
	No of Constituting meetings-physical	1	-	-	-	-					0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
1.2. Constitute and operationalise the Inter-RECS Policy Committee on Climate Services	No of the Inter-RECS Technical Committee on Climate Services meetings-physical	1	1	1	1	1					35	35	35	35	
	No of constituting meetings-physical	1	-	-	-	-					35	-	-	-	
	No of RFCS Cross-Sectoral Technical Group-physical		1	1	1	1					-	35	35	35	
	No RFCS Cross-Sectoral Technical Group Meetings-Virtual	2	2	2	2	2					0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
	No of constituting meetings-physical	1	-	-	-	-					70	-	-	-	
	No Technical Working Groups in priority sectors Meetings-Virtual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
	No of workshops review or develop TORs for User Interface platforms for priority sectors -physical	7	-	-	-	-					175	-	-	-	
	No of sector UIPs meetings-Virtual (12 per year x 7 sectors)	84	84	84	84	84					1	1	1	1	
	No of RFCS Implementation Plan	1	-	-	-	-					1	-	-	-	

Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Target Outputs					Budget USD '000'				
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Strategic Objective 1 - Actualize RFCS governance, operational structures and sustainability											
1.8. Revise, consolidate and implement the RFCS communication and outreach strategy	Revised RFCS communication and outreach strategy document produced and endorsed	1	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
	Implementation of Revised RFCS communication and outreach strategy (document produced and endorsed)	√	√	√	√	√	1	-	-	-	-
1.9. Revise, consolidate and implement the resource mobilization strategy of the RFCS	Revised RFCS resource mobilization strategy (document produced and endorsed)	1	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
	Implementation of revised RFCS resource mobilization strategy	√	√	√	√	√	10	10	10	10	
1.10. Promote and formalize collaboration and partnerships in the implementation of RFCS (e.g. through MOUs agreements and standardized protocols)	No of collaboration and partnership MOUs	2	3	3	3	3	1	-	-	1	
	MEL framework revised and implemented	√	√	√	√	√	1	-	-	-	
1.11. Revise, consolidate and implement the RFCS Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework	No. of RFCS GESI transformative plans	1	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	
	Implementation of RFCS GESI transformative plan	√	√	√	√	√	10	1	1	1	
Sub-total Strategic Objective 1							619.2	280.2	315.2	280.2	326.2

Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Target Outputs					Budget USD '000'				
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Strategic Objective 2: Support member states in establishing and implementing climate services across the NFCSs strategic pillars											
2.1. Build the technical capacity of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs)	No. of capacity-building plans for NMHSs designed to enhance their ability to produce to generate high-quality, user-relevant forecasts	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
	Conduct annual foundational seasonal climate prediction trainings on advanced prediction tools and methodologies	√	√	√	√	√	55.4	55.4	55.4	55.4	55.4

Actions	Key Performance Indicators		Target Outputs					Budget USD '000'				
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030		
Strategic Objective 2: Support member states in establishing and implementing climate services across the NFCs strategic pillars												
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	91.8	91.8	91.8	91.8	91.8	91.8	
Conduct Pre-COF capacity development and training workshop for the main rainfall seasons												
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	
Conduct on-the-job training and mentorship programs for forecasters and data managers focusing on practical skills in climate prediction and service delivery												
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	
Train NMHSs on developing standardized, data and monitoring products												
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	
Train young climate scientists on AI and Machine Learning												
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	2	2	2	2	2	
Provide ongoing technical assistance to NMHSs in climate prediction, analysis, and the development of tailored climate services												
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	30.6	30.6	30.6	30.6	30.6	30.6	
Train NMHS gender focal points to mainstream GESI in climate services												
	2	1	2	1	1	400	200	200	200	200	200	
2.2 Support Member States with the development, review and implementation of National Framework for Climate Service												
	1	-	-	1	-	100	-	-	100	-	-	
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	120	120	120	120	120	120	
Support member states to implement NFCS												
	✓	✓	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	
2.3. Consolidate needs assessment on existing observation and maintenance networks across Member States												
	2	3	4	1	1	400	600	800	200	200	200	
2.4. Expand, upgrade and maintain ground observation networks e.g. upgrade and densify meteorological, hydrological, and environmental monitoring stations across the region												
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	30	30	30	30	30	30	
Support member states urban air pollution monitoring and warning												
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Promote collaborative station-sharing agreements among IGAD and EAC member states												
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Support NMHS in archiving of meteorological data												
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1368.5	1266.5	1465.5	965.5	865.5	865.5	
Subtotal Strategic Objective 2												

Actions	Key Performance Indicators		Target Outputs							Budget USD '000'					
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Strategic Objective 3 - Strengthen and harmonize regional observations and monitoring systems for improved climate services delivery															
3.1 Synthesize high-quality historical climate data and analyse key drivers of regional climate variability and change	No. of regional climate 10-day bulletins produced and disseminated	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	2	2	2	2	2
	No. of regional monthly bulletins produced and disseminated	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	2	2	2	2	2
	No. of regional seasonal bulletins produced and disseminated	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
	Regional Climate watch advisories are produced and disseminated on need basis.										1	1	1	1	1
	Recruit Climate Monitoring Assistant	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	52	52	52	52
	No. of reports on climate drivers, causes, and mechanisms published (Identify and diagnose high-impact weather and understand causes and mechanisms)	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	2	2	2	2	2
	No. of sectors that have developed thresholds for specific climate hazards (Analyse historical climate to identify threshold for impact-based forecasting)	1	2	2	-	-	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
	No. of regional states of climate report produced (Analyze the annual regional state of climate)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	No. of continental State of climate reports that include ICPAC contributions	1	1	1	1	1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
	No. of standardized tools adopted and in use for producing climate monitoring products (Harmonize tools and methodologies for generating climate monitoring products)	1	2	2	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Develop a regional automated web-based climate monitoring system that enhances the real-time collection, analysis, and dissemination of climate data across the region	-	√	√	√	√	-	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Establish a centralized data repository and processing hub for high-volume EO data	√	√	√	√	√	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Integrate cloud-based platforms to improve accessibility, storage, and scalability of climate data	√	√	√	√	√	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Develop and implement regional data standards and quality control protocols for observations and EO datasets; Promote interoperable systems and open data-sharing frameworks among NMHSs, research institutions, and partners	√	√	√	√	√	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	

Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Target Outcomes					Budget USD '000'				
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Strategic Objective 3 - Strengthen and harmonize regional observations and monitoring systems for improved climate services delivery											
	Pilot big data platforms for integrating EO data with ground observations to support decision-making	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	80	80	80	80	80
Subtotal Strategic Objective 3						388.1	459.1	388.1	388.1	388.1	388.1

Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Target Outcomes					Budget USD '000'				
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Strategic Objective 4 - Strengthen (interdisciplinary) research, modelling and innovation in climate services											
4.1. Understand multi-timescale drivers of climate variability	No. of peer reviewed publications (Undertake research in climate modeling and prediction (e.g., ocean and land atmosphere interactions etc.)	10	10	10	10	10	30.6	30.6	30.6	30.6	30.6
	Customize and optimize regional climate models through targeted sensitivity experiments to reduce systematic biases	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5	5	5	5	5
	Develop and implement advanced data assimilation techniques that effectively integrate observational inputs, including automated station data, radar, and upper-air measurements, to improve the accuracy of dynamical forecasting systems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	11	11	11	11	11
	Adopt AGCMs to enhance weather and climate forecasting performance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.2
4.2. Enhance accuracy of climate forecasting and operational efficiency	Collaborate with Global and Regional Climate Centers to develop and operationalize AI/ML for improved weather and climate forecasts (including Ibf)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	3	3	3	3	3
	Develop AI/ML-based techniques for merging satellite-derived data with ground-based observations across the GHA.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	7	7	7	7
	Develop AI/ML-powered dissemination platforms that support the delivery of more accessible, tailored, and user-friendly climate services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	70	70	70	70	70
	Recruit AI/ ML expert	✓	-	-	-	-	64.8	64.8	64.8	64.8	64.8
4.3. Assess and enhance sub-seasonal to decadal forecasting systems to support operational application	No. of peer reviewed publications (Evaluate the performance of sub-seasonal to decadal forecast systems)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Target Outputs					Budget USD '000'				
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Strategic Objective 4 - Strengthen (interdisciplinary) research, modelling and innovation in climate services											
	Calibration/ bias correction tools developed/ adopted (improve the performance models through selection and calibration/ bias correction)	√	√	√	√	√	1	1	1	1	1
	Recruit post-doctoral climate researcher	√	√	√	√	√	181.2	181.2	181.2	181.2	181.2
	Assess the socio-economic value of climate services in supporting decision-making within climate-sensitive sectors	-	-	-	√	√	-	-	50	50	
4.4. Develop specialized expertise in emerging technologies and innovations	Establish and operationalise a Regional Center of Excellence (CoE)/ Hub on AI and Machine Learning.	√	√	√	√	√	10	10	-	-	
	No of young scientists mentored (Implement a mentorship program at the CoE for outstanding young researchers in climate science and applications)	-	-	30	30	30	-	-	306	306	
	Foster collaboration with academic and international partners at CoE to advance joint research, training, and innovation in AI and machine learning for climate science and services	√	√	√	√	√	-	-	153	153	
Sub-total Strategic Objective 4							407.8	407.8	856.8	906.8	906.8

Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Target Outputs					Budget USD '000'				
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Strategic Objective 5: Enhance the mechanism to access, manage and process data and generate and communicate climate information and sector-specific products											
5.1. Facilitate evidence-based decision-making among users in climate sensitive sectors	No. of regional weekly bulletins produced and disseminated	√	√	√	√	√	1	1	1	1	1
	No. of regional sub-seasonal bulletins produced and disseminated	√	√	√	√	√	1	1	1	1	
	No. of regional monthly bulletins produced and disseminated	√	√	√	√	√	1	1	1	1	
	No. of regional seasonal bulletins produced and disseminated	√	√	√	√	√	1	1	1	1	
	Co-develop the interannual to decadal regional forecasts	√	√	√	√	√	5	5	5	5	
	Recruit Climate Downscaling personnel	√	-	-	-	-	559	559	559	559	

Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Target Outputs								Budget USD '000'							
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030						
Strategic Objective 5: Enhance the mechanism to access, manage and process data and generate and communicate climate information and sector-specific products																	
5.2 Revamp GHACOF	Enhance the technical forecasting products provided at GHACOF	✓	✓	-	-	-	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
5.3 Support anticipatory actions across sectors	Co-organize the Greater Horn of Africa Climate outlook Forum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	193.59	193.59	193.59	193.59	193.59	193.59	193.59	193.59			
5.4 Enhance sectoral planning and coordinated responses among stakeholders	Develop and strengthen regional and national capacities on Impact-based Forecasts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	64.53	64.53	64.53	64.53	64.53	64.53	64.53	64.53			
	Expand access to Digital Agrometeorological tools and services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50			
5.5 Enhance the accuracy and reliability of forecasts to strengthen early warning systems	Piloting scalable climate service solutions that Member States can readily adopt and replicate, with a focus on enhancing uptake in countries with limited capacities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000			
	Recruit Agrometeorological Personnel	2	-	-	-	-	559	559	559	559	559	559	559	559			
	Recruit an agriculture sector Ibf expert	1	-	-	-	-	279.5	279.5	279.5	279.5	279.5	279.5	279.5	279.5			
	Co-Develop the impact-based forecasting system for RFCS Sectors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	64.53	64.53	64.53	64.53	64.53	64.53	64.53	64.53			
	Co-develop the verification scripts for weekly forecasts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
	Verify the weekly products	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
5.6 Upgrade HPC infrastructure to meet emerging needs of the climate scientific team	Co-Develop verification scripts for monthly forecasts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
	Verify the monthly forecast	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
	Verification of rolling seasonal forecasts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
	Operationalize the newly developed techniques	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5			
	Enhancement of model selection methods	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5			
	Operationalize the model selection techniques at monthly and seasonal timescales	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5			
	Operationalize ML techniques for forecasts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5			
	Assessment of the existing HPC infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	5			
Upgrade HPC to meet/ match emerging technologies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150				
Build capacity on HPC for system admins, modelers, and data analysts and Member States	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	30	30	30	30	30	30				

Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Target Outputs					Budget USD '000'				
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Strategic Objective 5: Enhance the mechanism to access, manage and process data and generate and communicate climate information and sector-specific products											
	Implement redundancy for the HPC infrastructure including GPUs for AI/ML		✓	✓	✓	✓	-	800	800	800	
	Upgrade the data storage and archiving system	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20	20	-	-	
	Strengthen operational and updated CDMS for station data	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20	20	-	-	
	Promote data sharing use of WIS2 system from GTS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20	20	-	-	
	Generate, update gridded and blended climate variable dataset	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20	20	-	-	
	Optimize the use of satellite and remote sensing data for climate analysis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	2	2	2	
	Support Member States on climate data rescue	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	50	50	50	50	
	Support member states on urban environmental data and services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100	100	100	
	Establish and implement GESI transformative action plan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	30	5	5	5	
5.7 Mainstream Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) transformative approaches to climate services											
Sub-total Strategic Objective 5							4311.2	4096.2	4859.2	4781.2	4801.2

Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Target Outputs					Budget USD '000'				
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Strategic Objective 6 - Enhance the access and usability of regional climate services through User Interface Platforms (UIPs)											
6.1. Strengthen co-production and feedback mechanisms	Revamping of Great Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum	✓	✓	-	-	-	35	10	-	-	-
	Strengthen Cross Border Climate Outlook Forums	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	35	10	-	-
	Strengthen member states National Climate Outlook Forums	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	35	35	35
	Strengthen Sector User Interface Platforms	-	✓	-	-	-	45	45	45	45	45
	Strengthen climate information dissemination channels and user engagement strategies (to ensure equitable access and usability of climate information products)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2

Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Target Outcomes					Budget USD '000'				
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Strategic Objective 6 - Enhance the access and usability of regional climate services through User Interface Platforms (UIPs)											
	Develop ICPCAC GESI responsive climate information communication strategy (customize IGAD strategy)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	50	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Strategic Objective 6							191.2	151.2	151.2	141.2	141.2

Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Target Outcomes					Budget USD '000'				
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Strategic Objective 7 - Strengthen the capacity building of regional stakeholders to provide and use climate services											
7.1. Enhance the capacity of climate information users across key sectors	Co-design training programs with users in RFCS sectors to interpret rainfall trends, temperature anomalies, and other monitoring outputs	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	15	20	15
	Training of users on climate risks (ICPCAC Summer Schools)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	
	Provide sector-specific training (agriculture, health, DRR, Health, Water, Energy, peace and security) on integrating into seasonal planning cycles and vulnerability assessments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	36.6	36.6	36.6	36.6	
	Improve climate information access and literacy among non-technical users to use specialized monitoring systems e.g., EAHW & EADW, EAAW	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	
	Engage policy makers and other stakeholders to integrate climate information into planning and reporting (support RECs, Member States, NGOs, and sector in mainstreaming CI use for decision support, investment planning, and policy monitoring)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	34.6	34.6	34.6	34.6	
	Promote collaborative research between scientists and users (engage users in identifying research priorities, testing innovations, and interpreting findings; and foster co-learning platforms that connect indigenous knowledge with scientific inquiry)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	24.4	24.4	24.4	24.4	
	Train journalists on how to report climate information	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	36.6	36.6	36.6	36.6	
	Build capacity of IGAD and EAC Member States and the IGAD and EAC Secretariats in Resilience Policy, Analysis, and Measurement	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	36.6	36.6	36.6	36.6	

Actions	Key Performance Indicators	Target Outputs					Budget USD '000'				
		2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Strategic Objective 7 - Strengthen the capacity building of regional stakeholders to provide and use climate services											
	Support IGAD and EAC member states to scale up and roll out the resilience assessment work (piloted) in three IGAD member countries	√	√	√	√	√	36.6	36.6	36.6	36.6	36.6
	Strengthen the IGAD and EAC Region Resilience Net-work and conduct research based on the identified priority research thematic areas (climate change and transboundary pests; risk financing; natural resource management)	√	√	√	√	√	20	20	20	20	
Sub-total Strategic Objective 7							347.8	347.8	362.8	367.8	362.8

RFCS Budget Summary

RFCS Strategic Objective	Year / Budget USD '000'					Total	% of total
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030		
1	619.2	280.2	315.2	280.2	326.2	1821	4.7%
2	1368.5	1266.5	1465.5	965.5	865.5	5931.5	15.3%
3	388.1	459.1	388.1	388.1	388.1	2011.5	5.2%
4	407.8	407.8	856.8	906.8	906.8	3486	9%
5	4311.2	4096.2	4859.2	4781.2	4801.2	22849	59.1%
6	191.2	151.2	151.2	141.2	141.2	776	2%
7	347.8	347.8	362.8	367.8	362.8	1789	4.6%
Total	7633.8	7008.8	8398.8	7830.8	7791.8	38664	100%
% of total	19.7%	18.1%	21.7%	20.3%	20.2%	100%	

Appendix 3 – Pitching for financial resources checklist

1. Know Your Audience

- Who are you pitching to (e.g., GCF, World Bank)?
- What are their funding priorities and interests?
- What regions, sectors, or populations do they focus on?
- Do they fund projects like yours?

2. Craft a Clear Problem Statement

- What is the core problem you're solving?
- Who is affected, and why is it urgent now?

3. Present Your Solution

- What exactly are you proposing to do?
- Why is this approach effective and needed in your context?
- Is it innovative, scalable, or replicable?

4. Show Evidence of Capacity

- Who is leading the work (organisation/team)?
- What is your track record or credibility?
- Who are your key partners?

5. Demonstrate Impact

- What are your expected results?
- How many people, sectors, or systems will benefit?
- How will success be measured?

6. Be Specific About Your Ask

- How much funding do you need?
- For what specific activities or outcomes?
- What type of support are you seeking (financial, technical, equipment, etc.)?

7. Align with Donor Priorities

- How does your project fit the donor's goals?
- What international/regional frameworks does it support?

8. Call to Action

- What do you want the donor/partner to do next?
- Are you inviting a meeting, co-design, site visit, or proposal submission?



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