



CONCEPT NOTE

Webinar

Avoided Losses and Damages: The Value of Early Warning and Early Action

Thursday, 25 June 2026, 14:00 – 16:30 (EAT)

[Virtual on Zoom](#)

1. Background and Rationale

Climate change is increasingly driving severe and recurrent climate-related hazards across the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA), including droughts, floods, heatwaves, storms, and slow-onset processes such as desertification and ecosystem degradation. These impacts are resulting in escalating economic and non-economic losses and damages, affecting livelihoods, food security, water resources, health systems, infrastructure, ecosystems, and human mobility.

The IGAD region remains one of the most climate-vulnerable regions globally due to high dependence on climate-sensitive sectors, limited adaptive capacity, widespread poverty, fragility, and increasing exposure to extreme climate events. Recent multi-season droughts and floods across the region have demonstrated the urgent need to move beyond reactive disaster response towards proactive and anticipatory approaches.

Early Warning Systems (EWS), climate services, and anticipatory action mechanisms provide a critical opportunity to reduce climate risks and minimize Loss and Damage through “avoided losses.” Avoided losses refer to losses and damages that do not occur because timely early warnings trigger early actions before climate hazards escalate into disasters. Research and documentation of loss and damage also plays a crucial role in planning responses and safeguarding communities.

The concept of avoided losses is increasingly gaining global attention within the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM), the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage, and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD). However, significant gaps remain in translating climate forecasts and scientific evidence into actionable policies, financing mechanisms, and operational early action systems.

In this context, the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), as the WMO-designated Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for Eastern Africa and the climate center of IGAD, is organizing this webinar to promote dialogue on the role of climate services, early warning



systems, and anticipatory action in reducing Loss and Damage through measurable avoided losses.

2. Goal

To strengthen understanding and regional collaboration on the role of climate services, early warning systems, and anticipatory action in reducing Loss and Damage through measurable avoided losses.

3. Objectives

Specific Objectives

The webinar aims to:

1. Enhance understanding of the concept of avoided losses and damages within the context of climate risk management and Loss and Damage.
2. Showcase scientific evidence and practical experiences demonstrating the value of early warning and early action in reducing climate-related losses and damages.
3. Promote regional collaboration and knowledge exchange among policymakers, scientists, humanitarian actors, financial institutions, and practitioners.

4. Key Themes

4.1 Climate Risk and Loss & Damage in the IGAD Region

The webinar will examine the growing climate risks and Loss & Damage challenges affecting the IGAD region, one of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions. Discussions will focus on increasing climate extremes such as droughts, floods, heatwaves, and slow-onset events including desertification and ecosystem degradation. The session will also highlight how climate impacts are driving human mobility, displacement, food insecurity, and non-economic losses affecting health, culture, biodiversity, and livelihoods.

4.2 Climate Services and Early Warning Systems

This thematic area will explore the critical role of climate services and early warning systems in reducing climate-related risks and impacts. Discussions will focus on seasonal forecasting, climate outlooks, impact-based forecasting, and the operationalization of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS). Emphasis will be placed on how climate information can support timely decision-making and strengthen preparedness at regional, national, and community levels.



4.3 Early Action and Anticipatory Action

The webinar will discuss how anticipatory approaches can transform disaster risk management by shifting from reactive response to proactive action. Key issues will include forecast-based financing, trigger mechanisms for early action, and preparedness interventions that can be activated before disasters occur. Practical experiences and lessons learned on anticipatory action will be shared to demonstrate how early interventions can reduce humanitarian impacts and avoid significant losses and damages.

4.4 Scientific Evidence for Avoided Losses

This session will highlight the scientific basis for avoided losses and damages through the use of climate risk indicators, climate projections, and analytical tools. Discussions will include the application of SPI, SPEI, and CMIP6 climate projections in assessing droughts and future climate risks. The session will also explore methodologies for quantifying avoided losses, including cost-benefit analysis and approaches for measuring the effectiveness of early warning and early action systems.

4.5 Policy and Financing Mechanisms

The webinar will examine policy and financing frameworks needed to support early action and reduce Loss & Damage. Discussions will focus on integrating Loss & Damage considerations into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) strategies. The session will also explore opportunities for accessing support under the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), the Santiago Network, and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, while highlighting the importance of financing anticipatory action and resilience-building initiatives.

5. Expected Outcomes

The webinar is expected to strengthen understanding and enhance regional dialogue on the role of climate services, research and documentation, early warning systems, and anticipatory action in reducing climate-related Loss and Damage. It will raise awareness among policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and development partners on the importance of investing in research, early warning and early action systems as effective tools for minimizing climate risks and avoiding preventable losses.

The webinar will also enhance participants' understanding of methodologies and approaches for assessing and quantifying avoided losses, including the use of climate indicators, impact assessments, and scientific evidence. Discussions and presentations will provide practical insights into how climate services, anticipatory action, and forecast-based approaches can support informed decision-making and resilience-building.



Another key outcome will be enhanced knowledge exchange on operational experiences, lessons learned, and best practices from regional and international initiatives related to Loss and Damage, early warning systems, and anticipatory action. This will help strengthen collaboration among climate science institutions, governments, humanitarian agencies, academia, and climate finance actors.

The webinar is further expected to foster stronger partnerships and coordination among stakeholders working on climate risk management, adaptation, humanitarian response, and Loss and Damage. It will also help identify opportunities for integrating measures that avoid losses and damages into national and regional policies, including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Disaster Risk Management (DRM) strategies, and climate financing frameworks.

6. Target Participants

The webinar will bring together participants from:

- IGAD Member States
- National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs)
- Ministries responsible for environment, climate change, DRM, agriculture, water, and finance
- UN agencies and international organizations
- Climate finance institutions
- Research and academic institutions
- Humanitarian and development organizations
- Civil society organizations
- Regional and international climate experts

7. Proposed Speakers and Institutions

Potential speakers and institutions include:

- UNFCCC Secretariat (Loss and Damage Team)
- WIM Executive Committee members
- IPCC experts
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)



- ICPAC
- Ministries of Environment and Climate Change
- International organizations and humanitarian agencies
- Academia and research institutions

8. Webinar Format

The webinar will include:

- Opening remarks
- A technical presentation
- Panel discussion
- Interactive Q&A session

9. Strategic Relevance

The webinar is strategically aligned with major global, regional, and national frameworks addressing climate change, disaster risk reduction, adaptation, and Loss and Damage. It contributes to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, particularly efforts under Article 7 on adaptation and Article 8 on Loss and Damage, by promoting practical approaches for reducing climate risks through early warning and anticipatory action.

The webinar also supports the operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) by strengthening climate resilience, enhancing adaptive capacity, and improving preparedness for climate-related hazards and impacts. In addition, it aligns with the work of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) and related mechanisms, including the Santiago Network and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, by advancing dialogue on avoided losses, climate risk management, and implementation support.

Furthermore, the webinar contributes to the objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through its emphasis on multi-hazard early warning systems, risk-informed decision-making, preparedness, and anticipatory action. It also directly supports the global Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative, which seeks to ensure universal access to life-saving early warning systems.

At the regional level, the webinar aligns with the IGAD Climate Change Strategy and ongoing regional initiatives on climate resilience, disaster risk management, and anticipatory action. It



reinforces ICPAC's mandate as a regional climate center supporting climate services, risk analysis, and evidence-based policy and decision-making across the Greater Horn of Africa.

10. Conclusion

Strengthening early warning systems and anticipatory action mechanisms is increasingly recognized as one of the most effective approaches for reducing climate-related Loss and Damage in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA). The region continues to experience recurrent droughts, floods, heatwaves, and other climate extremes that threaten lives, livelihoods, ecosystems, food security, water resources, and socio-economic development. These impacts are further intensified by high vulnerability, limited adaptive capacity, conflict, and growing exposure to climate risks. In this context, shifting from reactive disaster response to proactive and anticipatory approaches is essential for minimizing avoidable losses and enhancing resilience.

Climate services, impact-based forecasting, and multi-hazard early warning systems provide critical tools for improving preparedness and informing timely action before disasters occur. When combined with anticipatory action measures such as forecast-based financing, early interventions, and preparedness planning, these systems can significantly reduce humanitarian impacts, protect livelihoods, and lower recovery and reconstruction costs. Scientific evidence, including the use of climate indicators such as SPI, SPEI, and CMIP6 projections, further strengthens the ability to identify climate risks, assess vulnerabilities, and support evidence-based decision-making.

This webinar therefore provides a timely and strategic platform for bringing together policymakers, scientists, humanitarian actors, finance institutions, and development partners to exchange experiences, share best practices, and strengthen collaboration on avoided losses and damages. The dialogue will contribute to advancing practical pathways for translating early warning into early action while supporting regional and global efforts to strengthen climate resilience, reduce Loss and Damage, and promote sustainable development across the IGAD region.

PROGRAMME

Time (EAT)	Session	Speaker / Lead
13:45 – 14:00	Participant Login and Technical Setup	ICPAC Comms
14:00 – 14:05	Welcome and Introduction of the Webinar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of objectives and expected outcomes Introduction of speakers and participants 	Moderator: Ms. Winnie Khaemba
14:05 – 14:15	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Importance of early warning and anticipatory action in reducing Loss and Damage in the IGAD region Strengthening climate resilience and anticipatory action through partnerships 	Dr. Abdi Fidar, Ag. Director, ICPAC Dr. Kindie, AGRA Representative Moderator: Dr. Paulino Omay <i>Head, Climate Change Unit</i>
14:15 – 14:30	Operationalizing Loss and Damage Mechanisms and Support for Anticipatory Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) Santiago Network for Loss and Damage Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) Opportunities for developing countries 	UNFCCC Loss & Damage Expert (WIM Executive Committee)
14:30 – 15:00	Panel Discussion: <i>Climate Risk, Extremes, and Avoided Losses: Translating IPCC Science into Early Action for Loss and Damage Reduction</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate extremes and compound risks Scientific basis of avoided losses Climate projections and future risk hotspots <i>Scientific Evidence for Avoided Losses: The Role of Research and Academia in Informing Loss and Damage Policy and Practice</i>	Panelists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Ladislaus Changa <i>Director, TMA and IPCC Vice-Chair</i> Prof. Victor Ongoma <i>Assistant</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of academia and research • Quantification of avoided losses • Translating science into policy and practice <p><i>National Experiences and Perspectives on Avoided Losses and Damages</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National experiences on Loss and Damage • Challenges and opportunities • Policy and financing needs 	<p><i>Professor, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University</i></p> <p>iii. Mr. James Thonjo <i>Climate Change Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Kenya</i></p>
15:00 – 15:20	<p>Interactive Q&A Session and Open Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions from participants • Reflections and recommendations 	Participants
15:20 – 15:25	<p>Key Messages and Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of key recommendations • Strengthening regional collaboration and partnerships 	<p>Moderator: Dr. Paulino Omay <i>Head, Climate Change Unit</i></p>
15:25 – 15:30	Closing Remarks	Dr. Abdi Fidar Ag. Director, ICPAC