

# Lessons and recommendations for Weather and Climate Information Services (WCIS) from the WISER programme

**Report**

## Investing for sustainable climate services: insights from African experience

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January 2021

Logos: ODI, WISER (Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa), UKaid (from the British people)

### HIGHWAY

High impact weather lake system – a proposal framework for the lake Victoria region

**The Socio-Economic Benefits of the HIGHWAY project**

Logos: WISER, WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION, UKaid

IGAD ICPAC (Inter-Climatic Prediction and Applications Centre)

### ICPAC GUIDE FOR ENGAGEMENT IN CO-PRODUCING CLIMATE SERVICES

March 2021

Logos: IGAD, ICPAC, WISER, UKaid, Natural Environment Research Council

### NATIONAL CLIMATE OUTLOOK GUIDE FOR SOMALIA

The Somalia Inter-ministerial Meteorological Working Group

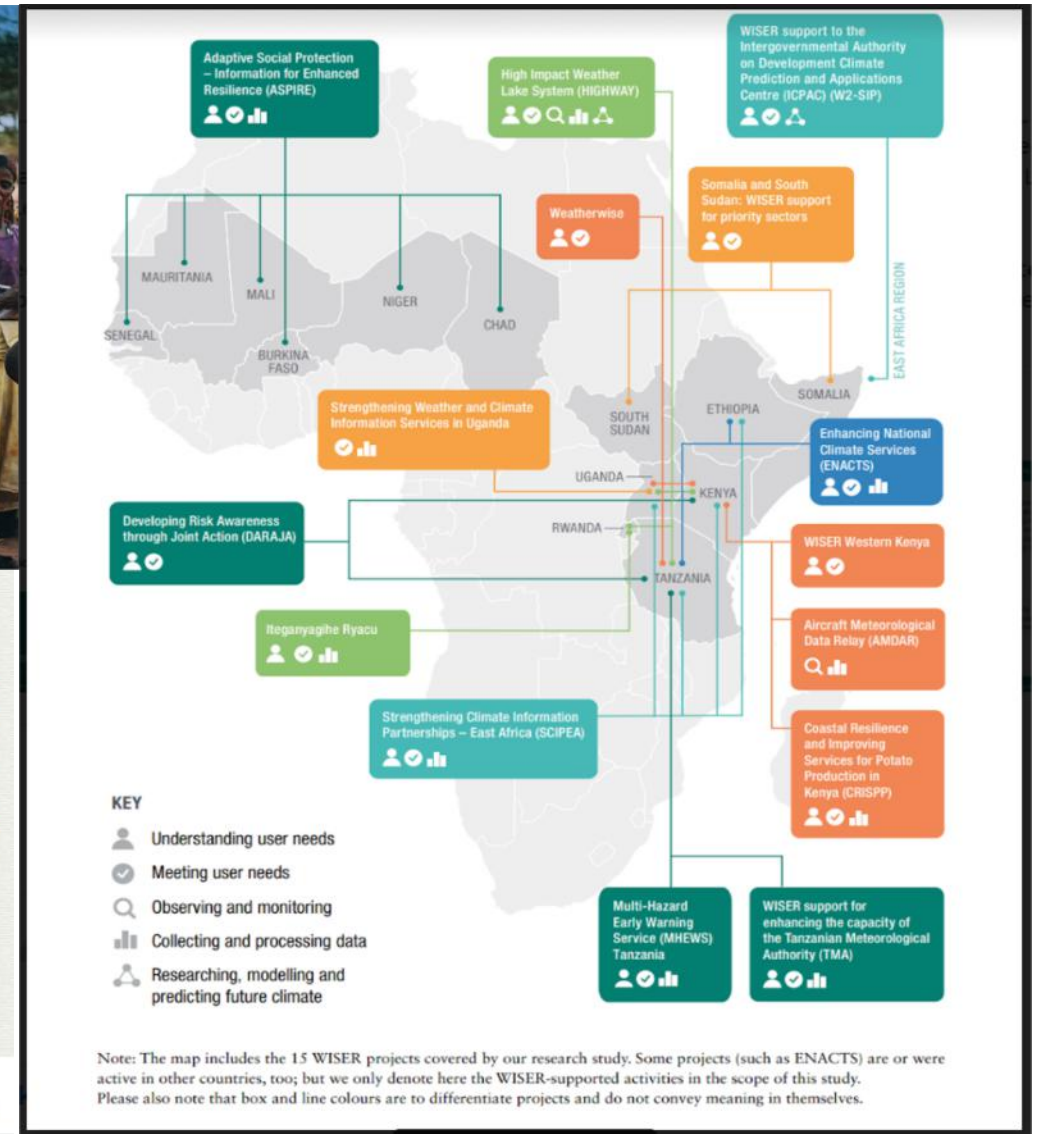
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### MANUAL

Co-production in African weather and climate services

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# 1

## Ring-fence an inception phase to ensure relevant planning

### Recommendations

- 1. Consider the level of co-production of climate services in WISER as ‘minimum viable’ level and seek to extend this aspect significantly in future programmes:** it will take time to show results but when results are achieved they are considerable.
- 2. Prioritise user engagement in the co-design of programmes:** Allow necessary time and resources to meaningfully engage end-users of climate services, understand different needs and ensure climate services are tailored accordingly.
- 3. Connect project initiatives to NMHS strategies and national plans:** Start with what exists within the NMHS and work closely with them when designing new projects. Extend this to involve regional climate centres.
- 4. Start discussions about sustainability of interventions early in projects** and ensure all relevant stakeholders are involved - clarify the roles and responsibilities of different actors.
- 5. Invest in dedicated M&E support at both programme and project level** to ensure results can be fully realised and robust evidence of what works is collated. End user engagement in the co-creation and implementation of MEL processes should also guide the way forward.

# 2

Follow a co-production approach to address the barriers to gender equity and inclusion

## Recommendations

1. **Move beyond simply ‘integrating’ gender and social inclusion, to make it a core objective of effective climate services uptake.** This requires first preparing a robust **programme-level Gender and Inclusion Action Plan**, and then supporting projects in designing and implementing their own. Gender and context analyses must happen before programmes and projects are designed.
2. Improving understanding of factors that reinforce inequality of different groups in **programme and project design is also key, with programme and project Theories of Change to have pathways systematically designed in to address gender and social inclusion, that link to logframes.**
3. **Champion gender equality & social diversity at institutional level first:** learn from local level best practices (e.g. supporting childcare so that mothers can attend journalist trainings, working with civil society organisations who promote social inclusion).
4. **Far broader stakeholder participation at National Climate Outlook Forums (NCOFs)** can be one vehicle for supporting inclusion (which requires funding to enable).

# 3

Build and sustain capacity across all levels of project delivery

## Recommendations

- 1. National Met Services require a range of sustained support which should be built into project design,** covering: technical capacities to improve the quality of products, communication skills such as simplifying climate information and engaging stakeholders in co-production, project management skills and pursuing future funding opportunities.
- 2. Support project intermediaries** with training and tools to understand climate services and communication skills to help them reach end-users with information tailored to local needs.
- 3. At all levels: Draw experiences from other programmes** in linking science to socio-economic activities (examples in the WISER Co-production manual and ICPAC Guide) or in implementing inclusive projects
- 4. Build upon institutional / partnership knowledge:** Recognise and strengthen individual / organisational roles, skills and (sector specific) knowledge but also establish clear roles and responsibilities to implement co-production approaches.

# 4

Enhance synergies between projects to help replicability and uptake of climate services

## Recommendations

1. **Invest in relationship-building between projects** (more engagement internally within programmes) by allocating resources to engage with other projects from the start.
2. **Identify and support regional and national focal points (potentially within NHMSs) to create synergies** when working with similar stakeholders, with additional support provided by Fund Management.
3. **Programme learning and sharing mechanisms should be budgeted at the programme and project level** and annual events should be created to enable a learning and sharing environment across projects and into programme.
4. **Facilitate adaptive learning between projects and with other programmes:** allow Fund Manager or dedicated Knowledge Manager to support projects to evolve.

# 5

Facilitate stakeholder dialogue and iterative climate service processes that enable and address feedback

## Recommendations

- 1. Strengthen joint and effective engagement/dialogue/ communication/ feedback for all partners and end users.**  
Joint collaboration with intermediaries at all levels creates more awareness, uptake of climate information, generate feedback of use and performance and translation of the information to different languages.
- 2. Project reporting should be a useful tool for projects and the programme** and should not distract from project implementation (e.g. disproportionate or unsupported requests for reporting information).
- 3. Improvement in climate services delivery via user feedback loops such as these will ultimately make WCIS more sustainable** (see next slide).
- 4. However, it requires dedicated human resource in NMHS to ensure this happens:** appropriate roles and responsibilities (people with stakeholder engagement, adaptive management in their job descriptions).

# 6 Sustainability

## Recommendations

1. **Gather the evidence to demonstrate the socio-economic benefits of co-produced weather and climate services** and present it in a compelling way to decision-makers with budgetary authority.
2. The co-production of WCIS pays off. Even so, WISER projects identified there is room for improvement and in future initiatives, **climate service providers should include even more stakeholders, with NHMSs undertaking regular stakeholder engagement in product development.**
3. **Secure senior management and political buy-in for sustained delivery** of climate services - as 'champions' for embedding co-production in national policies and budgets.
4. **Reconsider funding cycles and implementation phases to reflect realistic timeframes for new climate services development and sustainable outcomes:** a sustainability fund could also be set aside by donors for projects or processes that demonstrate impact to continue while pursuing a more robust transition.
5. **Donors have a role to play in the investment of NHMSs** through e.g. systematic investment techniques such as matched national government funding.



# WISER

Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa