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CLIMATE SERVICES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



ICPAC

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CONTENT

Messages From Leadership	03
Bridging Climate Gaps Across Eastern Africa	05
Main Forecast Products & Delivery Channels	06
Pilot Countries	08
Video Testimonials	09
Tools Making A Difference	10
Climsa's Performance At A Glance	11
Challenges & Strategic Responses	14
From Forecasts to Action	15
What's Next ?	16
Youth Champion Spotlight	17
Photo Gallery	20
Acknowledgements	22

MESSAGES FROM LEADERSHIP



DR. ABDI FIDAR,
OFFICER IN CHARGE, ICPAC

As we mark the culmination of the ClimSA project at ICPAC, I reflect with pride on the transformative progress we've achieved together.

Over the past five and a half years, we have built systems, strengthened capacities, and most importantly, touched lives across the region.

The ClimSA project is not just about data or forecasts, it is about resilience, hope, and the power of informed action.



I extend my gratitude to our partners, member states, regional and national service providers, project staff and the communities who have made this journey impactful. The legacy of ClimSA lives on in every improved farming practice, every policy influenced, and every life protected through timely climate information.

MR. ZACHARY ATHERU,
CLIMSA PROJECT MANAGER, ICPAC

The ClimSA project has been an incredible journey of collaborative innovation and learning. From developing tailored climate tools to conducting farmer and journalist trainings, workshops and establishing frameworks, our focus and goal remained making climate services accessible, usable, and impactful.

I am particularly proud of our work in the pilot countries, Kenya and Uganda, where we saw the direct benefits of climate services at the community level.



As we close this chapter, I thank the ClimSA team, our IGAD member states, and all partners for their dedication and vision. The resilience and systems we've built and the knowledge we've impacted, will continue to serve the region long after the project ends.

BRIDGING CLIMATE GAPS ACROSS EASTERN AFRICA

The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), designated by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) as the Regional Climate Centre for Eastern Africa, has played a significant role in strengthening climate services in the region.

Serving eleven countries (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania), ICPAC guides governments, communities, and institutions in building resilience to climate-related challenges through science-based climate information.

Through the Intra-ACP Climate Services and related Applications (ClimSA) programme, ICPAC

has worked to overcome the disconnect between climate information producers and users. Funded by the European Union (EU) and coordinated by the Organisation of African Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), the project focused on enhancing the co-production and delivery of climate services, particularly in water and agriculture, two of the most climate-sensitive sectors in the IGAD region.

Although Kenya and Uganda were selected as pilot countries, ClimSA's impact extended far beyond its borders-addressing real-life community needs and regional policy priorities.

These efforts were also aligned with ICPAC's strategic role as a knowledge hub, enabling improved decision-making across countries and sectors.



MAIN FORECAST PRODUCTS AND DELIVERY CHANNELS

ICPAC issues a range of tailored forecast products aimed at guiding short term and seasonal planning and risk management. These include:



Seasonal Climate Forecasts: Issued three times a year to support national planning, crop calendars, and water management. These forecasts are developed through objective forecasting techniques and issued during the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forums (GHACOFs) and tailored to country-level advisories through National Climate Outlook Forums (NCOFs) and Participatory Scenario Planning (PSPs).

Weekly Forecasts: Provide weekly predictions critical for day-to-day activities, early action and bridging the gap between weather and seasonal outlooks.

Monthly Forecasts: Highlight short-term anomalies, temperature trends, and rainfall updates, enabling flexible decisions in agriculture, water management, and disaster risk preparedness.

Drought & Flood Watch: Integrated into East Africa Hazards Watch, these tools provide near real-time data, allowing different stakeholders to monitor, anticipate, and act swiftly in times of crisis. These products are shared via GHACOFs, NCOFs, Sub-regional Climate Outlook Forums (Sub-COFs), and through the ICPAC's mailing list with over 10,000 subscribers, ensuring broad and inclusive access to timely information and advisories across all IGAD Member States and partners.

PILOT COUNTRIES: KENYA AND UGANDA LEAD THE WAY

Kenya and Uganda were selected as pilot countries for targeted interventions that would later be replicated across the region. These countries have become testbeds for innovative community engagement, institutional coordination, and impact-driven climate services.

Key interventions include:

- Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) training for women and smallholder farmers to interpret and act on forecasts.
- Participatory Scenario Planning (PSP) forums, enabling local governments and communities to co-develop seasonal advisories.
- National Climate Outlook Forums (NCOFs) are institutionalised as multi-stakeholder platforms to discuss and apply forecasts in policy and planning.
- Sub-regional Climate Outlook Forums (Sub-COFs), extend regional information to localised contexts.



SUCCESS STORIES

Building Climate Resilience

- In **Kajiado County, Kenya**, a group of women farmers trained under the PICSA approach adopted new farming techniques based on seasonal climate forecasts. They transitioned from maize to drought-resilient crops such as sorghum and millet. With the increased income, some farmers also diversified into poultry and small-scale irrigation using water harvesting methods introduced during the trainings.
- In **Kiboga District, Uganda**, ClimSA-supported a number of PSP forums that led to the development of locally relevant seasonal advisories disseminated through WhatsApp groups, SMS, local media and community engagements. During these sessions, farmers, extension officers, and government representatives received guidance on the planting time, pest outbreaks and control, and rainfall patterns.

Josephine Nnannyana, an extension officer and a farmer noted that using this information helped her avoid losses from delayed rains and successfully improved her planting, resulting in a bumper harvest for the first time in three years.

- In **Machakos County, Kenya**, climate clubs were introduced in public schools as part of ClimSA's education outreach. Over 10,000 indigenous and fruit trees were planted by students, supported by community leaders and school management. Beyond tree planting, the initiative instilled climate responsibility among learners and introduced basic concepts of climate change, environmental conservation, and agroforestry to the pupils.

Communication and Media engagement

- In **the IGAD region**, where communities depend heavily on rain-fed agriculture, early warnings issued in local languages through community radios significantly reduced risks during harsh climatic conditions expected at a given time. The Network of Climate Journalists of Greater Horn of Africa (NECJOGHA) in collaboration with ICPAC through ClimSA has conducted training to journalists in the IGAD region, collaborating with meteorological services in bridging the gap between scientists and the users of climate information by interpreting and relaying tailored climate forecasts and advisories to the communities.



VIDEO TESTIMONIALS

Voices from the community

SCAN QR CODES TO WATCH

Benefits of Climate services



PICSA Machakos & Kajiado



SUB-COF



CLIMSA@ICPAC



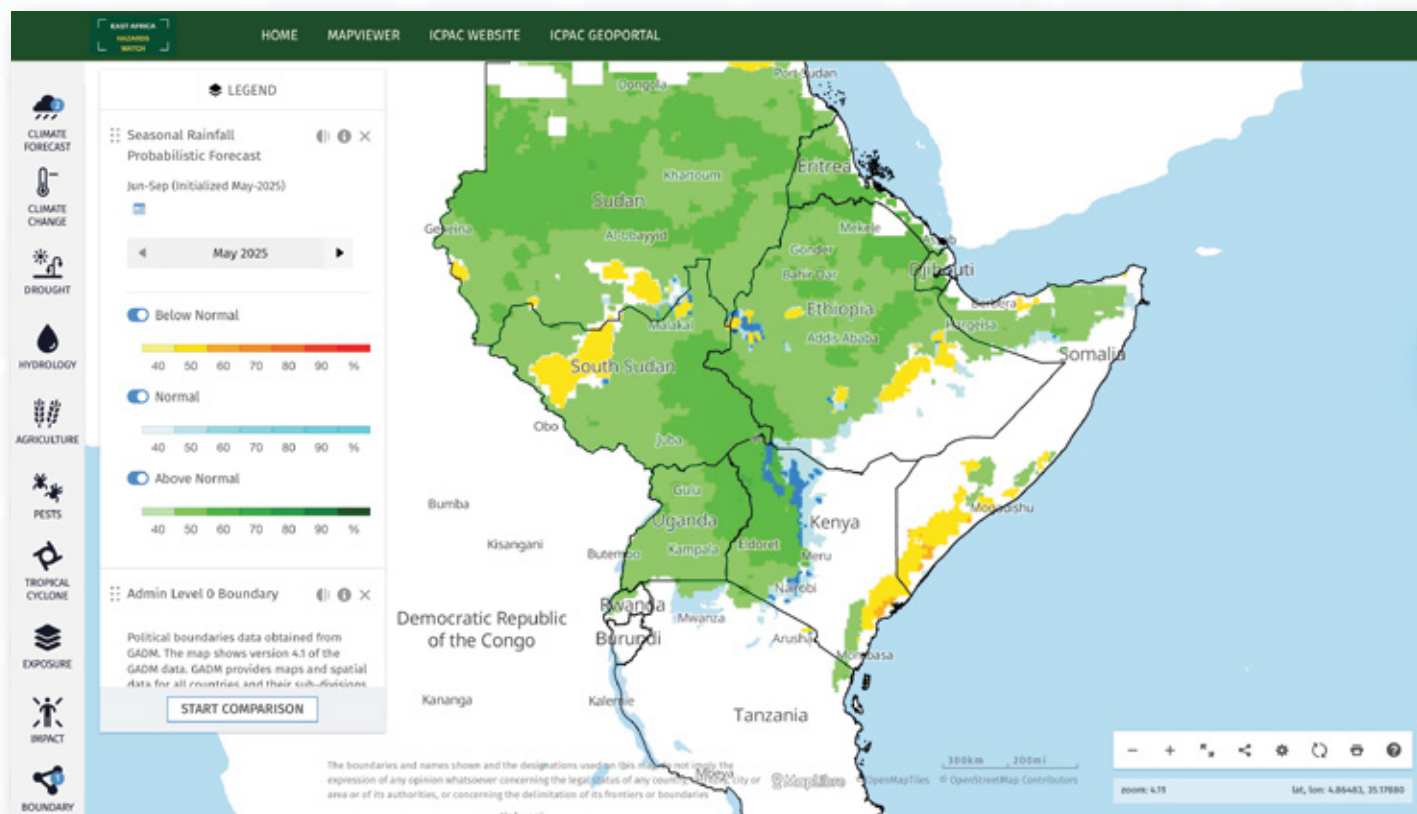
PICSA Machakos






PICSA Kiboga



TOOLS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Tool	Purpose	QR code
East Africa Hazards Watch	Provides real-time monitoring and alerts for floods, droughts, and landslides across Eastern Africa, supporting disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action.	
Agriculture Monitor	Tracks rainfall, vegetation, and soil moisture, offering visualized crop condition updates to support food security decisions.	
Drought Watch	Analyzes precipitation deficits and soil moisture to identify drought-prone areas and inform national and regional preparedness.	

CLIMSA'S PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE



Achievement	Description
2,380 users trained	Users trained across sectors through targeted workshops and capacity building initiatives in climate data interpretation, forecast application, agro-advisories, risk mapping, and communication. Trainings included women, youth, extension officers, and government planners in Kenya, Uganda, and the broader region.
Kenya's NFCS launched	The National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) was officially launched in March 2025 after a multi-stakeholder development process supported by ICPAC. It aims to embed climate services into national policies, budgeting, and coordination mechanisms. Uganda's NFCS is currently in development, and IGAD is concurrently establishing a regional framework (RFCS) to harmonize delivery.
13 MoUs signed	Strategic partnerships were formalized with national meteorological services, universities, and research institutions to promote collaborative research, share data, support policy development, and ensure the long-term sustainability of climate services.
Four digital tools developed	The tools developed under ClimSA—Hazards Watch, Drought Watch, Agriculture Monitor, and the ClimSA Climate Station—have improved early warning capabilities and data access for stakeholders from farmers to regional emergency responders.



Achievement	Description
12 scholarships awarded	Five master's level and seven postgraduate diploma scholarships were awarded to promising professionals in climate science and related fields across IGAD countries, helping to bridge the skills gap and foster local expertise.
20+ peer-reviewed papers	ICPAC and ClimSA researchers contributed significantly to regional and international academic journals. These publications focused on climate modelling, impacts, user engagement methodologies, and policy linkages.
10,000+ trees planted	Climate education and environmental awareness campaigns reached schools and communities, particularly in Machakos County. Through school-led initiatives, over 10,000 trees were planted to promote reforestation and build resilience to climate change.
NECJOGHA collaboration	The partnership with NECJOGHA supported regional journalists with training and access to timely climate data. It resulted in hundreds of articles, radio programmes, and social media campaigns that demystified forecasts and improved public understanding of climate risks.
Youth for Climate Action campaign	The regional campaign recognized and amplified the voices of young climate champions across IGAD countries. Through community storytelling, media engagement, and awards, the initiative highlighted youth-led solutions and their role in building climate resilience.
Food Security and Nutrition Working Group	ClimSA supported the revitalization of the IGAD Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, fostering stronger coordination between climate scientists, humanitarian actors, and policymakers. This enhanced early warning for food crises and integrated climate information into nutrition-sensitive planning.
Three high-level meetings	ICPAC through ClimSA convened these meetings to advance the integration of climate services into national and regional policies. The high level meetings focused on experience sharing among member states and engaging key ministries to promote climate-informed decision-making. They also targeted finance and planning officials, emphasising their role in resource allocation and development planning. The third meeting resulted in a ministerial communiqué affirming support for mainstreaming climate services and committing to climate-resilient policies and programs.

CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIC RESPONSES

Challenge	Response
Weak data infrastructure and inconsistent systems	Established a Regional Data Managers Group; deployed CDMS systems across multiple countries to improve data access and interoperability.
Low digital reach in rural areas	Disseminated forecasts through SMS, Telegram, and local radio; trained local facilitators to bridge last-mile gaps.
Gender and youth exclusion	Ensured inclusive participation through gender-balanced training and youth-focused initiatives like Youths for Climate Action.
Lack of sustained funding for platforms like NCOFs and PSPs	Advocated for institutionalization within government budgets and integration into national policies.
Limited policy uptake of climate information	Developed and distributed a policy brief on socio-economic impacts; engaged policymakers at GHACOFs and regional forums.

FROM FORECASTS TO ACTION:

Strengthening Communication

Recognising the importance of effective communication, ClimSA has worked closely with NECJOGHA to enhance the quality and reach of climate information across multiple platforms. NECJOGHA members from the IGAD member states are trained and supported to report accurately on forecasts, advisories, and climate-related risks, helping to demystify climate science for the public.

This partnership has boosted public trust in climate information, expanded early warning outreach, and given voice to climate-vulnerable communities.

Institutionalising Climate Services

ClimSA at ICPAC has gone beyond service delivery by supporting **policy and framework development** for long-term sustainability:

- **Kenya's National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS)** was officially launched on 19th March 2025, marking a historic milestone. The framework brings together government ministries, county actors, civil society, and the private sector to co-design and deliver climate information across all levels of society.
- **Uganda's NFCS** is currently under development with strong engagement from national institutions and ICPAC support.
- A **Regional Framework for Climate Services (RFCS)** is also underway to ensure harmonised, coordinated delivery of climate services across borders.

To support evidence-informed policymaking, ICPAC under ClimSA has developed and widely disseminated a **policy brief on the socio-economic benefits of climate services**, highlighting measurable impacts on agricultural productivity, risk reduction, and improved livelihoods. The brief has been shared in **high-level meetings**, including ministerial roundtables, regional dialogues, and global events such as **COP** and **GHACOFs**.

WHAT'S NEXT: PROJECT LEGACY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Although the ClimSA project is concluding in June 2025, its legacy continues. ICPAC is supporting the final documentation of project outcomes through a regional documentary that highlights success stories, tools, policy outcomes, and field impact. Additionally, ICPAC and IGAD are working to ensure sustainability through:



- Integration of climate services into national and regional policies and budgets.
- Continued capacity building through partnerships and regional forums.
- Expansion of tools and services beyond the pilot countries.
- Strengthening the link between climate science and socioeconomic resilience.

YOUTH CHAMPION SPOTLIGHT:

Esther Muhindo, Uganda, Restoring Land, Reclaiming Hope



Her journey began remarkably early. At only 13 years old, Esther mobilised local youth and co-founded a grassroots organisation to protect and restore the environment. Over the years, she has expanded this effort into a powerful, community-driven movement grounded in nature-based solutions.

Esther's work includes tree planting to rehabilitate landslide-prone areas, designing and distributing eco-friendly stoves that reduce firewood dependency, and expanding access to renewable energy in her rural village. Her innovation and leadership have helped over 70,000 homesteads transition to cleaner energy solutions, significantly reducing pressure on the nearby national park and building local resilience to climate change.

At just 22 years old, Esther Muhindo is driving climate action in her village near Uganda's Rwenzori Mountains National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its biodiversity. Growing up in a community heavily dependent on natural resources, Esther witnessed the devastating effects of deforestation, degraded hills, and recurring landslides that stripped her home of its natural beauty.

In recognition of her impact, Esther was named the winner in the 18–24 age category of the Youth for Climate Action campaign, supported by the ClimSA project at ICPAC. Her story is a powerful reminder that age is no barrier to leadership, and that youth, when empowered, can drive real change for people and the planet.



Interactive corner

- Where do you access climate information from?
- What ICPAC climate products do you use the most?
- Have you ever changed a decision based on a climate forecast? If yes, tell us more
- Do you prefer climate information via radio, SMS, social media, email or community meetings? If other, tell us
- What challenges do you face in using climate information?

Scan to
Share your
thoughts



PHOTO GALLERY







ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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- The European Union, OACPS Secretariat, and the African Union Commission.
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- Regional and national journalists, universities, civil society, and the dedicated ICPAC ClimSA team.

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