



Concept Note

Regional Workshop on Climate Services at the National Level for South East Europe

Date and venue (TBD)

INTRODUCTION

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established in 2009, through a high-level declaration at World Climate Conference-3 organized by World Meteorological Organization (WMO), other United Nations (UN) agencies, Governments and partners to guide the development of climate services around the world. The vision of the GFCS is to enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially for those who are most vulnerable to such risks. This will be achieved through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice. The full value of the GFCS will be realized incrementally through the delivery and use of a multitude of climate services at regional, national and local levels.

Following the ground-work laid by a High Level Taskforce on GFCS, the Sixteenth Session of the World Meteorological Congress, the Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress in 2012, the first Session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services held in July 2013 approved the Implementation Plan of the GFCS and called for its immediate implementation focusing on capacity development and user involvement during the initial period of implementation to support the establishment of climate services in countries and territories in which improvements in the provision of climate services are urgently required.

The GFCS will build upon the following five components or pillars required to address the entire value chain for the production, management, delivery and application of climate information and services in support of decision-making, addressing initially four priority areas (agriculture and food security; water; health; and disaster risk reduction):

- **User Interface Platform:** a structured means for users, climate researchers and climate information providers to interact at all levels;
- **Climate Services Information System:** the mechanism through which information about climate (past, present and future) will be routinely

collected, stored and processed to generate and deliver products and services that inform often complex decision-making across a wide range of climate-sensitive activities and enterprises;

- **Observations and Monitoring:** to ensure that climate observations and other data, including metadata, required to meet the needs of end users are collected, manage, disseminated and its utility assessed;
- **Research, Modelling and Prediction:** to foster research towards continually improving the scientific quality of climate information and services, providing an evidence base for the impacts of climate change and variability and for the value of using climate information;
- **Coordination and Capacity Development:** to address the mechanisms for coordination and networks needed across information providers and affected communities and capacity development, such as needed to interpret, translate and use climate information to support decision making; identified in the other pillars and, for enabling GFCS-related activities.

To effectively implement all of the pillars of the GFCS from the global to the national levels, consultations involving key stakeholders are needed to optimize the benefit of existing practices, expertise and infrastructure. It is with this background that the GFCS Office is promoting regional consultations. Consultations have been held for Pacific Islands (31 March – 1 April), the Caribbean (May 2013) and Least Developed Countries in Asia (October 2012).

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- To review the current status of generating climate information in SEE countries and assess specific needs for climate services in the initial four priority areas (agriculture and food security; water; health; and disaster risk reduction) at the global, regional, national and local levels;

- To review and characterize the current status of interfacing mechanisms and interactions between climate services providers and users, identify major areas for improvement and recommend effective mechanisms and practices;
- To articulate the capacity building needs for SEE countries in terms of mandates, infrastructure as well as human resources, in all the components of the GFCS;
- To discuss and recommend improved arrangements for national observation networks, enhanced research and analysis of national and local climate issues including impacts indicators, improved access and utility of climate data and predictions, sustained operational mechanisms that improve facilitation of the flow of climate information
- To identify, propose and prioritize, ways to promote community understanding and awareness of climate variability and change, and associated risks and opportunities for improved climate risk management and products and services.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

This workshop aims to bring together experts from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and the key decision-makers, and practitioners from the initial four priority areas of the GFCS. It will facilitate the identification of appropriate mechanisms and networks to improve and sustain the flow of climate information for different users. Specifically, it should result in: (i) enhanced understanding of the needs for climate services in different user sectors; (ii) improved knowledge of the existing interface mechanisms and recommendations for improvements where needed; (iii) clear understanding of capacity development needs to implement the GFCS at regional and national levels; (iv) strategic guidance on institutional arrangements, partnerships and processes required to operationalize the GFCS at the regional and national level.