



Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)

To ensure that decision makers have access to the highest-quality climate predictions and services for effective adaptation and climate-risk management.

Launched by World Climate Conference-3 in September 2009

A collaborative initiative between providers and users of climate information, led by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with the support of the United Nations system.

Why this Initiative?

- Virtually all socio-economic sectors, including water management, agriculture, fisheries, health, forestry, transport, tourism and energy, are highly sensitive to weather and climate extremes such as droughts, floods, cyclones and storms, heat waves or cold waves.
- Decision-makers, concerned by the adverse impacts of climate variability and change on people's lives and well-being, must be equipped to make effective use of climate information to anticipate current and future climate risks.
- Recent advances in science and technology now make it possible to downscale and improve climate information and prediction services.
- Ensuring an effective dialogue between providers and users on the range, timing, quality and content of climate prediction products and services will contribute to building climate-resilient societies.

Objectives

- Strengthen local, national, regional and global observational networks and information manage-

ment systems for climate and climate-related variables.

- Enhance climate modelling and prediction capabilities through strengthened international climate research focused on seasonal to decadal timescales.
- Improve national climate service provision arrangements based on enhanced observation networks and prediction models, and greatly-increased user interaction.
- More effectively use global, regional and national climate information and prediction services by all stakeholders in climate-sensitive sectors.
- Enable effective climate risk management and increase capacities for adaptation to climate variability and change.

Activities

The Framework will have four major components:

- Observation and Monitoring;
- Research, and Modelling and Prediction;
- Climate Services Information System;
- User Interface Programme.

The first two components, while well established, are in need of strengthening. The latter two components together constitute a World Climate Service System.

The User Interface Programme, a relatively new concept, will

develop ways to bridge the gap between the climate information being developed by climate scientists and service providers and the practical information needs of users.

Moving forward

The World Climate Conference-3 Declaration calls for the establishment of a Task Force of high-level, independent advisors to recommend next steps for developing and implementing the GFCS. The report of the Task Force will be submitted to the World Meteorological Congress in May 2011.

To endorse the composition and approve the terms of reference of the Task Force, the Declaration requests that the WMO Secretary-General convene an intergovernmental meeting of WMO Members. This meeting will take place from 11 to 12 January 2010 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva.

Partnerships

The GFCS will build on and strengthen existing local, national, regional and global networks of climate observation,

monitoring, research, modelling and service programmes. It aims to achieve its goal through the enhanced role and involvement of national meteorological services and regional/global centres, as well as greater participation of other stakeholders and centres of excellence across relevant socio-economic sectors, with the greatest focus on the most vulnerable countries.

The Framework requires extensive collaboration among governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society at large, including universities and research institutions, and outreach to communities in all socio-economic sectors benefiting from the application of climate data and information in planning, policy and practice.

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CEB climate change action framework

Five focus areas and four cross-cutting areas have been identified in response to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiation process and in pursuance of the broader mandates and capacities in the United Nations system:

Focus areas

- Adaptation
- Technology transfer
- Reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD)
- Financing mitigation and adaptation action
- Capacity-building

Cross-cutting areas

- **Climate knowledge: science, assessment, monitoring and early warning**
- Supporting global, regional and national action
 - Climate-neutral UN
 - Public awareness-raising

<http://www.unsystemceb.org/climatechange/cop15>

<http://www.un.org/climatechange>