**EWS Africa: Summary of Inception Workshop, Ethiopia**

The main purpose of the mission was two-fold: Firstly, to understand and consult with ongoing development initiatives (both public and externally-funded) to fully align the proposed LDCF project; and secondly to participate and facilitate the inception workshop (IW) for the project “Strengthening climate information and early warning systems in Eastern and Southern Africa for climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change – Ethiopia”.

The Ethiopia Inception Workshop (IW) for the project, “Strengthening climate information and early warning systems in Eastern and Southern Africa for climate resilient development and adaptation to climate change – Ethiopia”, was held on Tuesday 25th, September 2012. The Inception Workshop was very well attended by senior government officials and other important stakeholders. The Minister of Water (MoW), Mr. Kebede Gerba, made the opening address and gave the workshop a high level of political visibility and ownership. The press was present and interviewed the minister, UNDP CO representative and the director general of National Meteorological Agency (NMA).

Presentations were made by the NMA, the MoW and the Ministry of Agriculture/Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector on existing infrastructure and coordination process for EWS in the country. This was followed by extensive deliberations from the floor which provided very valuable input on the strategic direction the project should take.

Some important points:

* To ensure effective, realistic and meaningful project design further dialogue is required to map the existing infrastructure and the needs that this project can address. This is particularly important to achieve outcome 1 “Enhanced capacity of national hydro-meteorological (NHMS) and environmental institutions to monitor extreme weather and climate change” in order to ensure maximum impact and avoid any duplication.
* Site selection and O&M plan is going to be of crucial importance for the installation of the weather infrastructure. Coordination between various government departments will be essential.
* There is a need to focus on rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and data rescue before investing too much in procuring new equipment. Ethiopia has 1200 weather station that are in different states of operation and can contribute extensively to the country’s weather data gathering effort.
* Training and capacity-building of NMA staff at the centre and at regional level to enhance data collection and analysis will be a very important part of this programme and a capacity-building plan will be developed in partnership with NMA.
* Potential partners for financial sustainability for climate information systems and EWS were identified and need to be followed up. Possible ways by which a nation-wide climate information and EWS can leverage private sector finance were explored during the mission.

The Inception Workshop was followed by several successful bilateral consultations with government departments and multilateral/bilateral donors. The mission identified several related initiatives operating in Ethiopia which the project will build on in order to avoid replication and ensure convergence and complementarity. Follow up discussions led by the NC with the help of UNDP CO with these potential partners will take place, as well as with other donors working in the country.