

Session 4: Using historical data: data rescue efforts to enhance climate information services

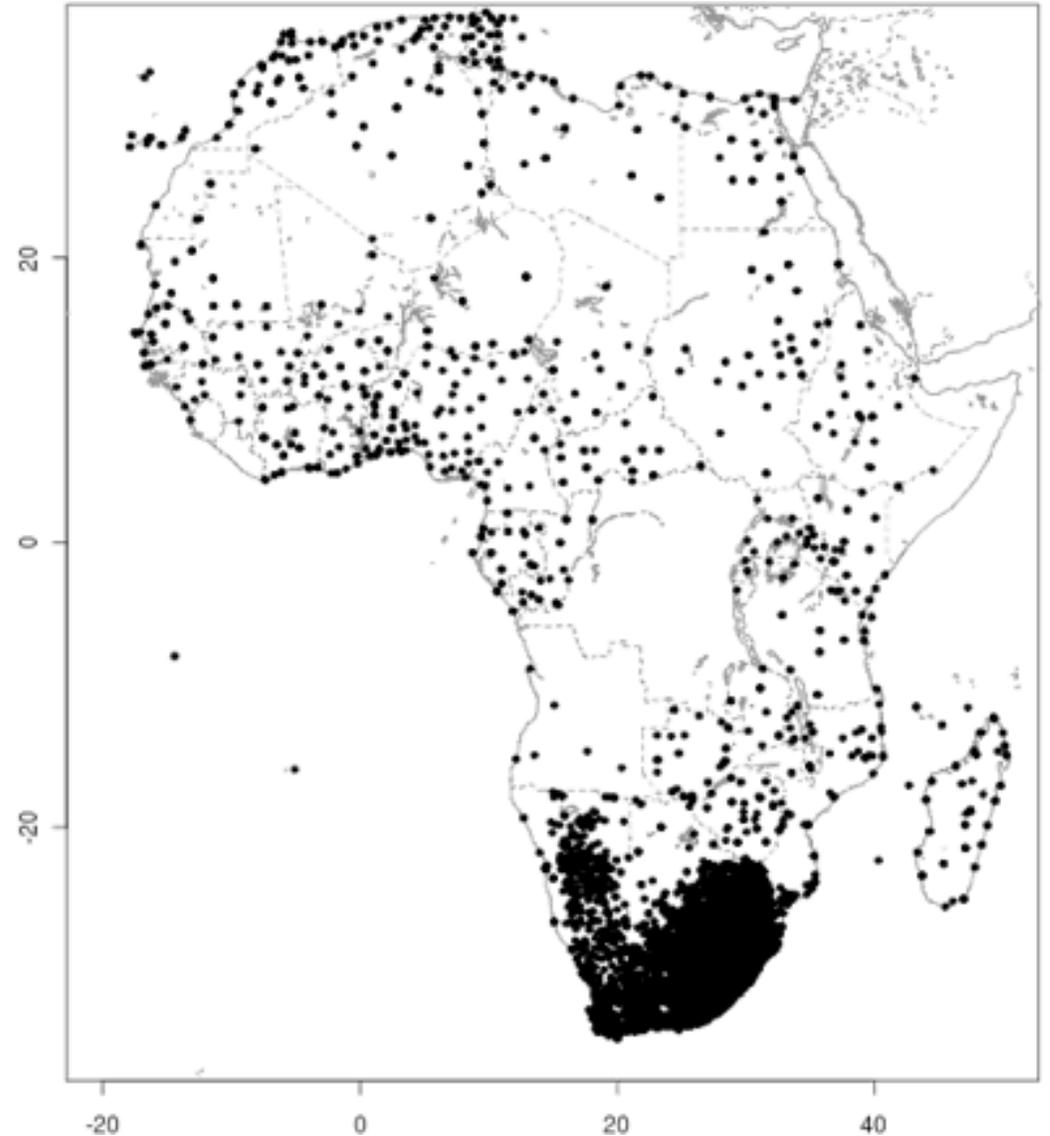
Moderator- Mark Tadross, UNDP

- Martin Mukhondia, African Regional Director, IEDRO
- Martin Swaswa, Head of the Climate Advisory Department, Zambia
- Tijani Bojang, Meteorologist from the Department of Water Resources, The Gambia



Why CIRDA has engaged in promoting digitisation

- Requests from government for support, particularly Zambia, Gambia and Malawi
- Way to address gaps in coverage with existing digitised data
- Easiest way to quickly provide access to long time series data (and enable applications)
- 'Free' data where capital and O&M costs have already been paid
- Digitise measurements needed for tailored forecasts e.g. winds for forecasting storms on Lake Malawi
- Sets the groundwork for integrating other sources of long term data e.g. from farmers and private sector



Digitised data can be used to expand coverage, improve forecasts and develop new products

- Cleaned data can be used to develop and constrain satellite-station merged products e.g. ENACTS
- Data can be used for downscaling weather and seasonal forecasts e.g. Model Output Statistics, Canonical Correlation Analyses etc.
- BUT, takes time – need to use innovative automated solutions and focus on variables/locations needed for services

Coordination and complementing other work is critical

- IEDRO – Direct support for countries, assessing way forward, automated software approaches e.g. Climate Wizards.
- SASSCAL in Zambia – support to ZMD

