

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Programme on Climate Information for Resilient Development in Africa (CIRDA)



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

General Objective

Support national climate services in their efforts to collect, analyse and disseminate climate information as a key tool to save lives and enable long term planning and adaptation.

Specific Objectives

Meet the need to generate, process and disseminate high quality and timely weather and climate data that is comprehensive, reliable, accessible and in a form that end users can understand

Enable vulnerable communities, farmers and policymakers in Africa to access and use climate data to make informed decisions on how to survive in a changing climate

Bring innovative, reliable, low cost, easily maintained technologies with national coverage and cellular links to hydromet agencies

Impact human lives, food and global security

Geographic Coverage

Benin; Burkina Faso; Ethiopia; The Gambia; Liberia; Malawi; Sao Tome and Principe; Sierra Leone; Tanzania; Uganda; Zambia

Funding

The CIRDA Project is financed through the Global Environment Facility's Least Developed Countries Fund (GEF-LDCF) and is being implemented by UNDP. It has a budget of USD 4 million for multi-country support that complements the USD 50 million that has been granted to national climate information and early warning projects.

Key elements of CIRDA Support

- Mainstream and integrate data into development planning (NAPs)
- Enable access to data and new technologies for weather observation, data interpretation, and communication
- Identify and reach end users that are dependent on climate information such as vulnerable communities, farmers, and government decision maker.
- Outreach to business community to identify opportunities to provide tailored weather information (aviation, utilities, insurance, etc.) and potential revenue.

What is the **CIRDA Programme's contribution to adaptation** and development?

Climate information is needed to enable countries address current and future risks from climate change, hence it is essential for sustainable development, adaptation and poverty reduction. Currently the lack of climate data is a major cause of low adaptive capacity in Africa.

For more information contact:
Dr. Bonizella Biagini
CIRDA Manager
bonizella.biagini@undp.org

Background

Climate information technologies in African LDCs are often not fully functional, do not produce digitized data nor provide information in a timely and user-friendly form for adaptation and disaster risk reduction purposes.

Principal challenges to be overcome

- Poor status of equipment and maintenance in participating countries
- Limited operational budgets and human resources
- Lack of baseline data, in some cases need to digitize basic documentation
- Reluctance to utilize innovative technologies and software
- Inconsistent/inadequate technical support from external sources
- Absence of regional cooperation

CIRDA 2015/16 Annual Programme

- Workshops: Private Sector Engagement (Uganda, March 2015); Project Manager Hands on Meeting (Ethiopia, 25-27 August, 2015); Application Development (Zambia, February 2016)
- Regional/Multi-country Support through access to experts on meteorology, hydrology, innovative technologies and private sector engagement (country visits to 11 partner countries and assistance at the national level)
- Market study to identify private sector linkages and end user needs for climate information in CIRDA's partner countries
- Support on data digitization (survey to assess initial needs followed by on-site visits to assess amount of work needed)
- Support in identifying and drafting technical specifications for hydromet equipment and services that are cost effective and appropriate to each country's observation needs for national planning and adaptation
- Regular newsletters and website to engage country stakeholders and provide expert advice
- Publication on establishing public private partnerships to enhance NHMS