

Mobile Weather Alert
Community weather information via
mobile Technology

Uganda Pilot

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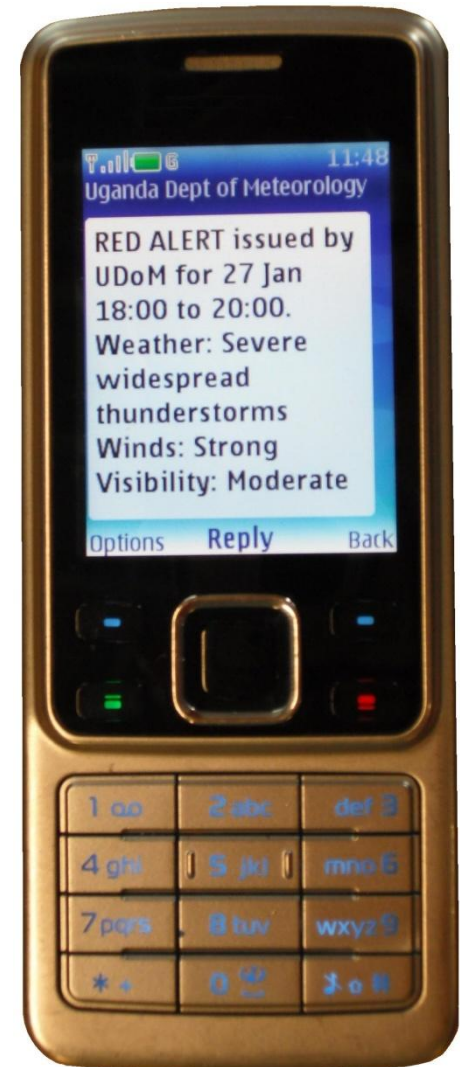
Outline

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Project Overview

Objective:

Utilise mobile phone technology to develop a sustainable warning service that reduces the vulnerability of communities in the Lake Victoria Region to weather hazards.



Project Overview

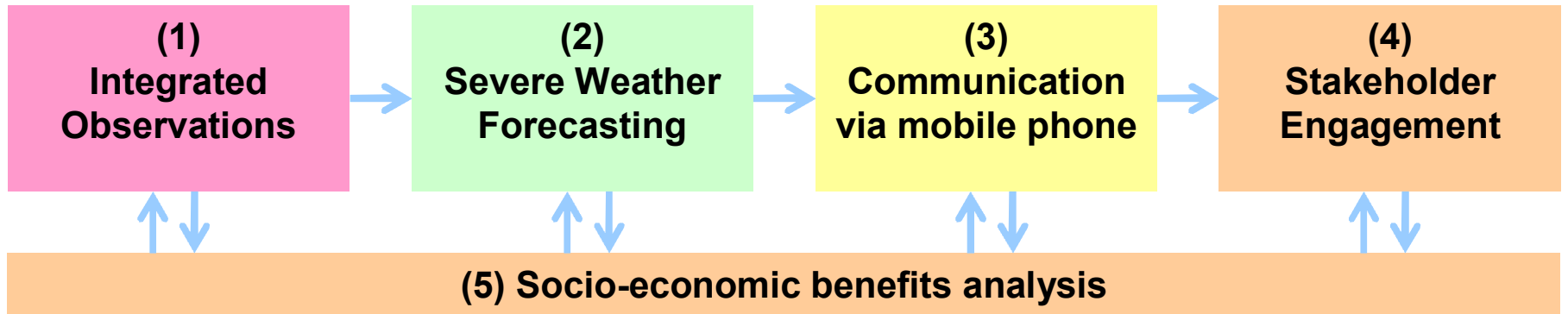
Project Partners:



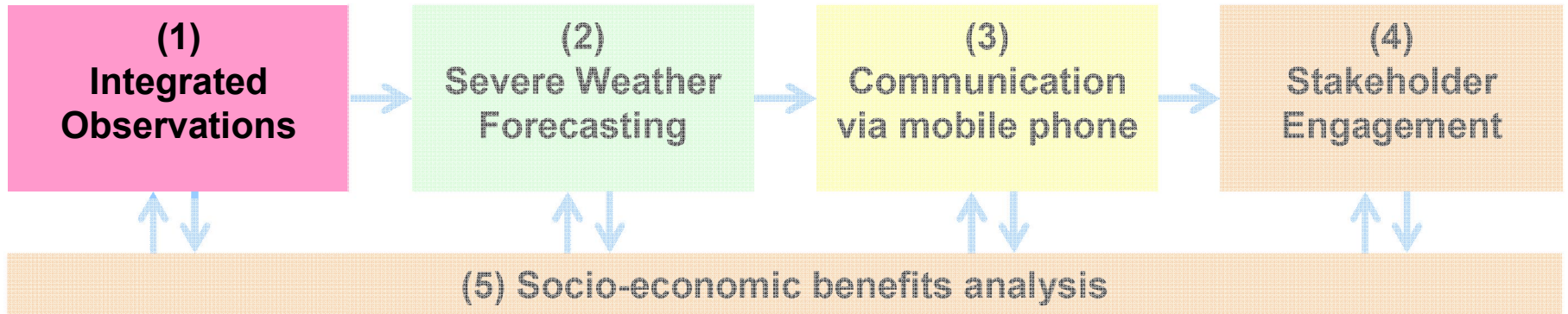
MINISTRY OF WATER, LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT,
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Project Structure

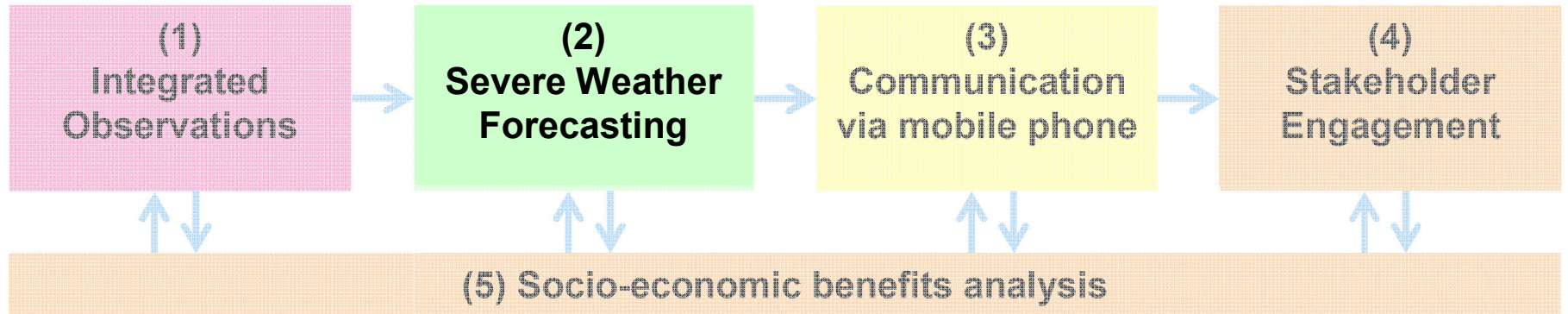


Key Outcomes



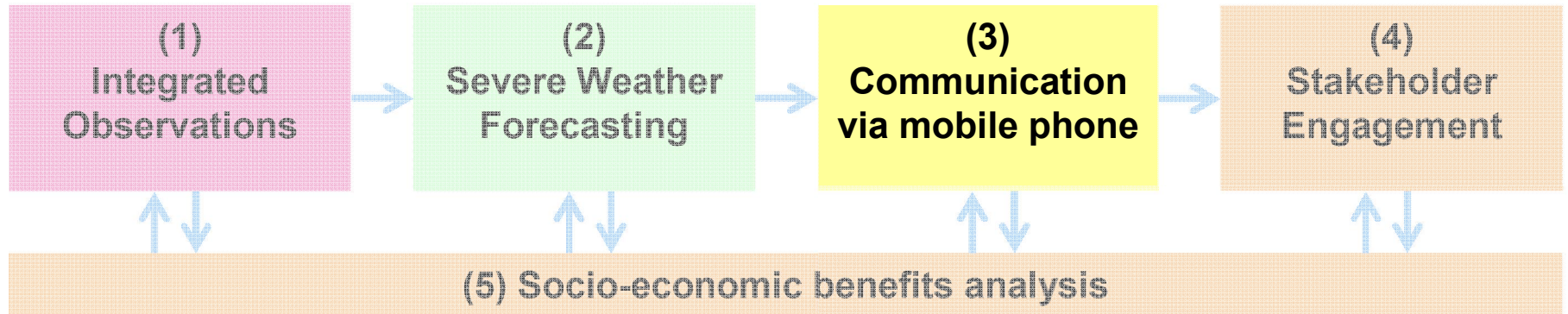
- All operational Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) in Uganda integrated into Observation Data Management Systems located at National Forecast Centre in Entebbe.
- Quality of data collected by AWSs located at mobile phone mast sites is evaluated through a systematic and scientific (peer reviewed) data trial.
- Observations of Lake Victoria surface temperature integrated onto WMO GTS and data available for weather forecast models.
- Possibility of further AWSs installed at suitable locations selected and managed by NMHS.

Key Outcomes



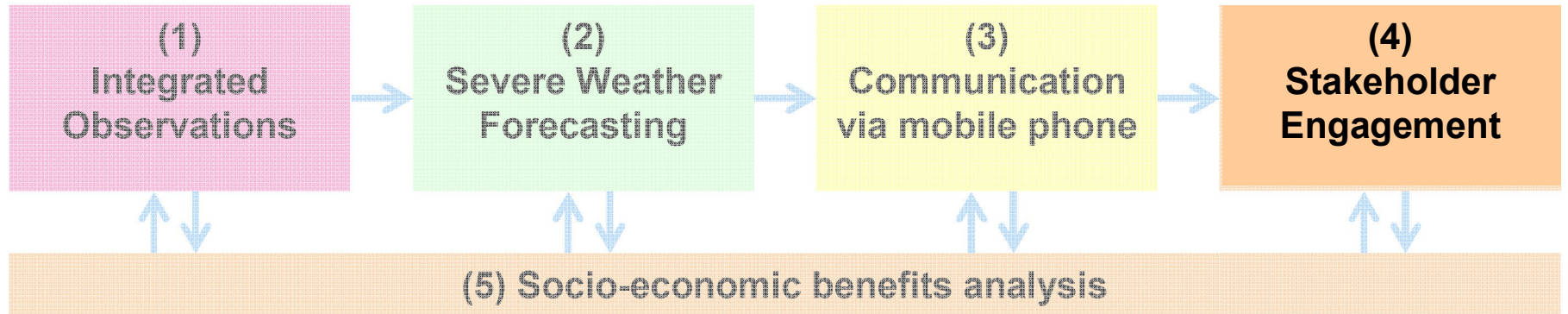
- Drawing upon Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project and other initiatives, clearly defined processes for the delivery of pilot warnings and forecasts established and implemented.

Key Outcomes



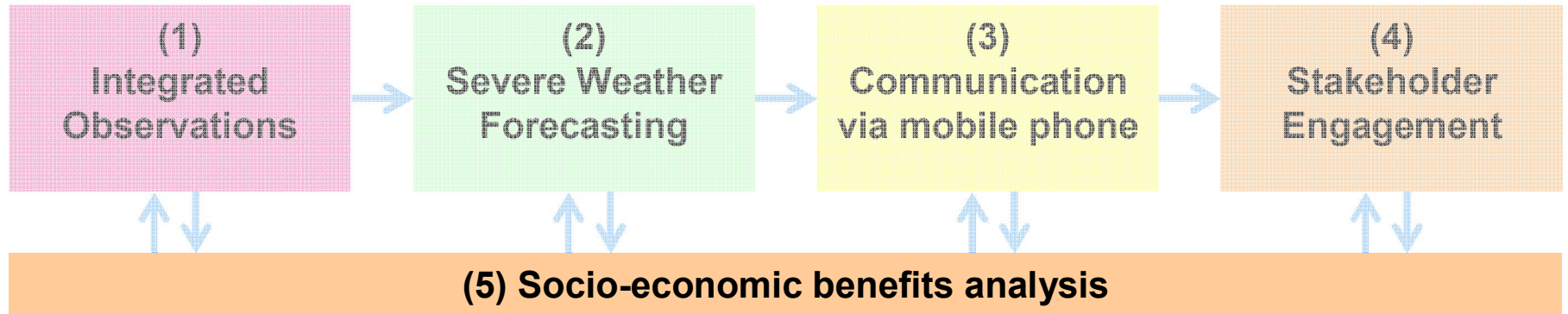
- Accurate, timely and reliable weather forecasts and warnings are routinely disseminated to pilot communities of fishermen, in Uganda, for the duration of the trial.
- Seasonal and other weather information provided via Uganda Department of Meteorology website and disseminated via mobile WEB, or WAP, for the duration of the pilot for the chosen agricultural communities.

Key Outcomes



- Active and relevant community relationships established with the pilot communities of:
 - Fishermen on Lake Victoria
 - Farmers in Lake Victoria region
- Project management process established to enable successful project implementation and evaluation.

Key Outcomes



- Verification study completed on the accuracy of available forecast products and the impact of the warnings. (This will be conducted in synergy with SWFDP for East Africa).
- Benefits analysis completed and case studies published.
- Business model developed for the wider roll-out of programme across Sub-Saharan Africa (and beyond) is agreed and communicated

Benefits

The benefits of the proposed project over the next 6-12 months are as follows:

- Reduction in the frequency of deaths on Lake Victoria.
- Improved capacity amongst pilot communities to respond to warnings of severe weather.
- Increased capacity to deliver effective warnings.
- Business model for wide-scale rollout.
- Sustainable increase in observations.

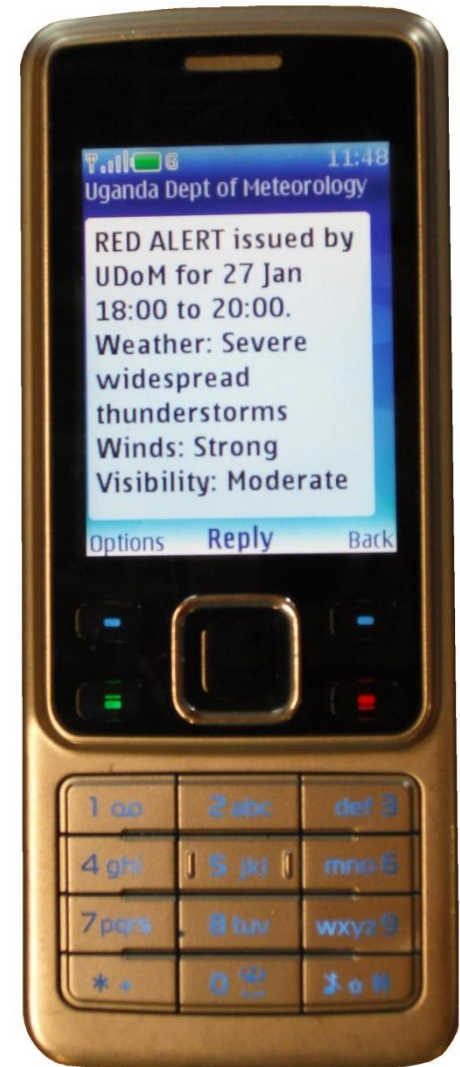
Through realisation of the benefits above, the project will contribute towards poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Next Steps

- Funding approval for pilot – imminent (some aspects also covered through World Bank Project).
- Norwegian Government has provided USD 500,000 for the project for Uganda and Tanzania to start with.
- Technical development will be completed by Feb 2011.
- UK Met Office procured 2-AWSs through UK VCP to support trial.
- Currently working on stakeholder engagement
- Pilot to fishermen will run from Feb-Apr 2011.

Summary

- Focus on disseminating forecasts and warnings via mobile technology.
- AWSs installed under WIFA will be integrated into UDoM operations.
- Any new observations installed to strategically improve NMHS operations.
- Benefits evaluation and development of “Business Model” for wider rollout is a key outcome of the pilot.



The end

Thank you for your attention