



**Offices for Africa and Least Developed Countries (AFLDC)
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

AUGUST 2018

**Third RA I Management Group Meeting held at the WMO Secretariat, Geneva;
16-17 June 2018.**

The Third Session of the RA I Management Group Meeting was held at the WMO Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland from 16 - 17 June 2018. The session was attended by the Secretary-General (WMO), Prof. Petteri Taalas, the Assistant Secretary-General (WMO), Dr Wenjian Zhang, Acting President of RAI and Permanent Representative of Cote d'Ivoire with WMO, Mr Daouda Konate. Also present were the Director of Development and Regional Activities Department (D/DRA), Mrs Mary Power, Director, Africa and Least Developed Countries (AFLDC), Dr Joseph Mukabana, and other Directors in the Secretariat including members of the Executive Council from RA I (Africa) as well as Chairs of the RA I Working Groups and other Stakeholders.



**Participants in the 3rd Session RA I Management Group meeting, Geneva, Switzerland,
16-17 July 2018**

At the end of the two-day meeting, the RAI Management Group came up with far-reaching resolutions at transforming the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHNS) in the Weather, Climate, Water and Environmental services to a range of sectors, such as, agriculture, water resources, energy, tourism, transport (air, land and water) and health; to assist in reducing the risks of hazards, and support in deriving economic benefits that are associated with the conditions in the region of Africa.

To achieve these goals, the Management Group agreed to prepared a Ministerial Charter during fourth session African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET-4) that would address key areas of need like; disaster risk reduction; public private partnership (PPP), protection of NMHNS: generation of impact-based forecasts for key socio-economic sectors, and the application of the single sky regionalization of ICAO in RA I (Africa) on security and cost recovery. The Policy issues to be highlighted during the 4th session of the AMCOMET in Cairo, Egypt, February 2019 included the following

- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):** The Group agreed that there is the need to push for the enactment of a legislation and policy for NMHNS in RA I that would address issues of disaster risk reduction (DRR); to save lives and property from hydro-meteorological disasters through the use of the Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS), focusing on the Global Multi-hazard Alert System (GMAS).
- **Public Private Partnership (PPP):** The Management Group also expressed the need for the enactment of Legislation and Legal instruments as well as Policy Regulatory Framework for Public Private Engagement (PPE) of NMHNSs with the private sector to ensure parity in service production and delivery with the NMHNSs retaining their key role as the officially designated national authoritative voices on weather and climate services, and in particular early warning services, alerts and advisories.
- **Protection of NMHNSs:** According to the Group, the NMHNSs in RA I need protection by governments with a boost of financial resource to improve human capacity development in skills and competences required to enhance production and delivery of Meteorological services as well as the infrastructural development of the NMHNSs.
- **Generation of Impact-Based Forecasts for Key Socio-Economic Sectors:** The Management Group opined that the enactment of an Act of Parliament to increase financial support to NMHNSs (as a % of GDP) would enable generation of impact-based forecasts and enhance their quantifiable contribution to key socio-economic sectors (notably Agriculture, Water Resources, Health, DRR, Energy, Transport, Marine and coastal zone resources) projected to accelerate achievements of the AU Agenda 2063 (the Africa we want) as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Implication of the Single Sky Regionalization of ICAO in RAI (Africa) on Security and Cost Recovery:** The Group also noted the implications of the single sky regionalization of ICAO in RAI (Africa) based on the Yamoussoukro Declaration (1988)

on “Open Skies for Africa” and Implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision (1999) which were meant to liberalize the pan-Africa Air services.

Earlier on, in his key note address, the WMO Secretary-General highlighted decision of Congress-17 of 2015, which requested the Executive Council (EC) “to provide recommendations to the Eighteenth Congress on constituent body as appropriate on, including possible new structures for Technical Commissions (Cs), Regional Associations (RAs), Executive Council (EC), and also to provide recommendations on rules, procedures, processes, working mechanisms, and duties, of constituent bodies, WMO Officers (President, Vice-Presidents, PRAs and PTCs) and the relationship between them and the WMO Secretariat to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization for good governance.” This, according to him led to the WMO reform. The process he said, was driven by the Executive Council (EC) while the Secretariat acted as facilitator. In his presentation, Prof. Taalas enlightened the Group on the procedure of the reform principally centred on WMO private sector engagement; Administrative matters and the Regional Association I (Africa).



3rd Session RAI Management Group meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 16-17 July 2018

While, welcoming Members of the Management Group, the Director, Africa and Least Developed Countries (AFLDC), Dr Mukabana expressed his gratitude to members of the Group for their support in the preparation of the meeting and itemized the Working Groups that made up the Management Group including the Permanent Representatives (PR) from RA I who are also members of the current Executive Council (EC). He also stated clearly the two main objectives of the meeting, which were: (i) Preparation of the programme and agenda for the Regional Technical Conference (RECO), the RA I-17 Session and the 4th African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) Session, scheduled for Cairo, Egypt in February 2019; and (ii) Review of the structure of RECO by co-opting issues from RA I and AMCOMET

Sessions to get a configuration that has three elements. That include strategic policy, technical and institutional issues.

Speaking at the Group meeting, the Acting President of RAI (Africa), Mr Daouda Konate recalled issues discussed during the two previous Management Group meetings contained in the “Report and Status of RA I Management Group and Working Group” document. He reminded members to note that the session would be the last Management Group (MG) meeting before the 17th Session of RA I in Cairo, he recommended a restructuring of the Management Group for a more efficient performance in Egypt.

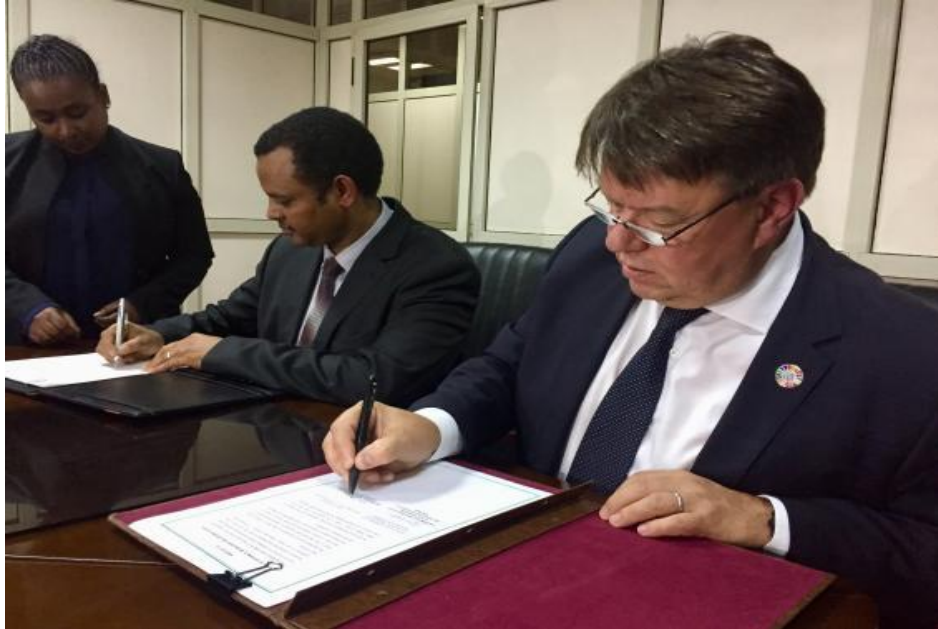
In the presentation, titled “The Critical Important Role of Regional Associations: Challenges vs Opportunities” the Assistant Secretary General (ASG) Dr Wenjian Zhang dealt on Promotion; Collaboration; and Implementation. He enumerated the functions of the Regional Associations (RAs), and called on Members to strive toward addressing the challenges and gaps that exist at the national level with synergy at policy levels.

The Director, Development and Regional Activities (DRA) Department, Ms Mary Power called on the RA I Management Group to consider decisions offered by the WMO Technical Departments, which are relevant to them. She emphasized that documents from Regional Associations (RAs) should be decision-focused; containing either resolutions, decisions or recommendations.

Relocation of the WMO Regional Office for Africa to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

WMO has signed an agreement with the government of Ethiopia to relocate its current Regional Office for Africa at its Headquarter in Geneva, Switzerland to Addis Ababa the capital of Ethiopia to strengthen relations with key organizations like the African Union and to improve assistance for Members on the African continent.

The office will be situated in the proposed headquarters of Ethiopia’s National Meteorological Agency, when construction is finally completed in the next few years to meet the demands for reliable weather and climate services for the rapidly growing economy of the Nation. The Director General of the National Meteorological Agency (NMA) and Permanent Representative of Ethiopia with WMO, Ato Fetene Teshome, presented a 5-minute proposed plan of the building complex to Members of the 3rd RA I Management Group meeting held in Geneva , Switzerland from 16 – 17 June 2018.



Prof. Petteri Taalas Secretary-General WMO (Right) and Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Demeke Mekonnen Hassen (left) signing the HCA on 11 July 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

According to the Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia, His Excellency, Demeke Mekonnen Hassen, with the boom in the construction and transportation sectors, there is a drive to use weather and climate information to expand agricultural production and renewable energy.

At the first stone laying ceremony of the new Meteorological Complex building, the Deputy Prime Minister pointed out that, meteorological services were vital to underpin national sustainable development and to build resilience against extreme weather events. “Ethiopia is highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters,” he said. “Agriculture is rain-fed and so food security is frequently undermined by droughts such as the one which hit the country in 2015 and 2016”, he said.

WMO Secretary-General, Petteri Taalas, said the new regional office would strengthen WMO’s presence on the continent and further strengthen partnerships with key institutions including the African Union (AU) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) as part of WMO’s wider strategy to deepen relations with international and development partners.

“This means a lot for Ethiopia and other Member countries in Africa,” said Fetene Teshome, Ethiopia’s Permanent Representative with WMO.

The Regional Office for Africa and Least Developed Countries is currently based in Geneva. It will be relocated to Addis Ababa. It is responsible for 54 National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Africa.

The location of the Regional Office for Africa on the continent will be a strong channel of support from the WMO to strengthen early warning systems that incorporate climate management into development policies and strategies, which enhances socio-economic development for the well-being of the people in Africa. WMO also has sub-regional offices in Nairobi (Kenya) and Abuja (Nigeria).

Three Permanent Representatives of Regional Association I (RAI) nominated into 70 WMO Executive Council (EC-70)

In order to fill the three vacant EC positions in RAI during the 70 WMO Executive Council, the Permanent Representatives of Nigeria, South Africa and Namibia were nominated to serve the Organization in the sessional period of Congress. The following PRs were the nominees.

Prof. Sani Abubakar Mashi- (Nigeria)

Prof. Sani Abubakar Mashi is currently the Director-General/CEO of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMET). He succeeded Dr Anthony Anuforum who was also a Member of the WMO Executive Council until his retirement in 2017. Before his appointment as the Director General of NiMET, Prof. Mashi was the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration) at the University of Abuja. He is currently a Member, Technical Advisory Council, National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA).



**Prof. Sani Abubakar Mashi
Director General/CEO, NiMET &
Nigeria's Permanent Representative with the WMO**

He also served as the Coordinator (Director-General) and Chief Executive of the Abuja Metropolitan Management Council.

Mr. Jeremiah Lengoasa

Mr. Jeremiah Lengoasa was also nominated a member of the 70 WMO Executive Council. Mr Lengoasa is the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the South African Weather (SANS) services.



Mr. Jerry Lengoasa
Chief Executive Officer ,South African Weather Service/
Permanent Representative of South Africa with the WMO

Mr. Lengoasa returned to the South African Weather Service after 12 years of service as the Deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Prior to his appointment as the WMO DSG, he served in the South African public service in Environment and Regulations, Environmental Quality and Protection areas, holding senior management positions at both provincial and national government institutions.

Mr. Franz Uirab

He is Chief of Namibia Meteorological Service and the Permanent Representative of Namibia with WMO. Mr. Uirab is currently the Chairperson of the Meteorological Association of South Africa (MASA) and former Chair of the Technical Task Force on the Implementation and Resource Mobilization Plan (IRMP) of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorological (Weather Climate and Water Services) of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET).



Franz Uirab
Chief, Meteorological Service of Namibia
and the Permanent Representative of Namibia with the WMO

Highway Project Steering Committee Endorses Terms of Reference

The Steering Committee (PSC) established to give a cohesive technical work plan to the HIGH impact Weather IAke sYstem (HIGHWAY) project has endorsed its terms of reference (TOR). The assignment of the Committee amongst others include reaching an agreement on the Guiding Principles of the project; review and endorse the recommendations from the Technical and Scientific Workshop which had taken place earlier in the year from 26 – 28 February 2018; Interrogate the Highway Project budget as well as the intended 1 Million GBP for the Field Campaign and 1.5 Million GBP for Capital Equipment.

The HIGH impact Weather IAke sYstem (HIGHWAY) project is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), Weather and climate Information SERvices (WISER) for Africa Programme, through the UK Met Office (MO).

The objective of the HIGHWAY project is to enhance early warning weather forecasting over the Lake Victoria Basin (LVB) region to prevent deaths and damage due to severe convections and strong winds in the region. The project involves the East African Community (EAC) Partner States (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi).

The expected impact of the HIGHWAY project is an increased use of weather information to improve resilience and reduce the loss of life and damage to property supporting sustainable development in the Lake Victoria Basin region. The expected outcome is increased access to and use of co-designed and sustainable early warning systems (EWSs) to inform regional, national, sub-regional and community level planning and decision-making in the Lake Victoria Basin region.

The partners in the project, are the World Meteorological Organization, the United Kingdom Meteorological Office (UK Met.), the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the East Africa Community (EAC) Partner States (Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda), the EAC Secretariat and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC).

The Project Steering Committee Members are expected to have skills complementary to those of the programme and which could include expertise in the following areas: Tropical meteorology and weather forecasting, management of operational services as well as capacity development and communications. Membership should include African representatives and with gender balance. Among the stakeholders, members may include appropriate representatives from academia, government, development partners, NGO or civil society organizations.



The Steering Committee is expected, inter alia, to provide the following to the project:

- a. At each meeting, review and provide oversight of the following standing items.
- b. The strategic direction of the project including; cohesion of the technical work plan; research uptake; capacity building; and M&E strategies based on the log frame and impact indicators.
- c. The quarterly reports to identify achievements and progress, including possible delay and or problems.
- d. The implementation plan, in the following six months, with proposal of adjustment, if needed.
- e. The high level of relevant ministries and platforms in the region, collaboration and or communication in the EA progress of the project towards a successful, operational EWS in the area.
- f. Guidance to ensure that all aspects of the project are supported and sustained by decision-makers, policy-makers and users in the region.
- g. Creation of new links to promote the project's outcome and sustainability, using established platforms.
- h. Evaluate and mitigate Project risks; Governance and management of the project.
- j. Assurance of content and opportunities for policy engagement globally.
- k. Ethical considerations and proper conduct of the research.
- l. Any other specific items of concern; and
- m. Endorsement of the annual to submission to DFID.

RAI Permanent Representatives appointed between 2015-2018

Countries	Permanent Representatives
Angola	Mr Domingos José DO NASCIMENTO Director general instituto nacional de meteorologia e geofísica - inamet
	Kouka Ernest OUEDRAOGO

Burkina Faso	Direction de la météorologie Directeur Général
Cabo Verde	Mr Hércules VIEIRA National Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics
Central African Republic- République centrafricaine	Mr Athanase YAMBELE Direction de la Météorologie et de l'Hydrologie
Chad – Tchad	Mr. Elie MBAITOURAM Direction des ressources en Eau et de la Meterologie de l'Hydrologie.
Comoros	Mr Youssouf HAKIM Directeur Technique Direction de la météorologie, Agence nationale de l'Aviation Civile et de la météorologie (ANACM), Comores
Congo Brazzaville	Hilaire ELENGA Direction de la météorologie Directeur de la météorologie à l'Agence nationale de l'aviation civile de la République du Congo
Gabon - Gabon	Mr Gilbert ONDO NDONG Director-General Cabinet du Ministre des Transports et de
Ghana - Ghana	Dr Michael MAWUTOR TANU Director-General Ghana Meteorological Agency
Libya (State of) - Libye	Mr Abd Elfatah H. SHIBANI Director-General Libyan National Meteorological Centre
Lesotho	Ms Mabafokeng Felesiah MAHAHABISA Acting Director Lesotho Meteorological Services
Madagascar - Madagascar	Mrs Marie-Louise RAKOTONDRAFARA Director-General Direction Générale de la météorologie
Mali	Mr Djibrilla Ariaboncana MAIGA Directeur Général Direction nationale de la météorologie
Mauritania – Mauritanie	Mr Mohamed Batta Cheikh Mohamed EL MAMY Directeur Général Service de météorologie
Morocco – Maroc	Mr Abdallah NASSIF Direction de la météorologie nationale du Maroc Department: National Centre of Climate and Meteorological Research
Mozambique -	National Director Mr Adérito Félix ARAMUGE National Institute of Meteorology
Nigeria	Prof. Sani Abubakar MASHI Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of NiMet
Senegal - Sénégal	Mr Magueye Maramé NDAO Director-General Agence nationale de l'Aviation Civile et de la Météorologie (ANACIM)
Seychelles	Mr Vincent AMELIE CEO Seychelles Meteorological Authority (SMA)
Sierra Leone - Sierra	Mr Ibrahim Sinneh KAMARA Meteorological Department Meteorologist
Somalia	Eng. Omar H.M.SHURIE Director-General Ministry of Energy and Water Resources Telecommunication Building
Togo – Togo	Mr Latifou ISSAOU Directeur général Direction générale de la météorologie nationale
Tunisia – Tunisie	Mr Hédi AGREBI JAOUADI Ministère du Transport, Institut National de la Météorologie

Uganda	DrFestus LUBOYERA Executive Director Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA)
Zambia	Dr Edson Nkonde Acting Director Meteorological Department Ministry of Transport and Communications
Zimbabwe	Mr. Washington Zhakata Acting Director now of the Meteorological Service Department of Zimbabwe

Key Upcoming Events & Actions Planned For the Region

- Secretary-General signing of the Host Country Agreement- Nigeria. 19 Sept 2019
- Training of Sub-Regional Offices' staff in second week of September 2018. The exact dates will be communicated later 10-14 Sept 2018
- 16 - 17 February 2019: Women Leadership in Africa Workshop; Cairo, Egypt
- 18 - 19 February 2019: **Technical Regional Conference (RECO)**; Cairo, Egypt
- 20 February 2019: AMCOMET Expert Meeting); Cairo, Egypt
- 21 February 2019: AMCOMET High-level Session / RA I Start (Combined); Cairo, Egypt
- 22 - 23 February 2019: RA I Session; Cairo, Egypt
- The 7th Africa Water Week (AWW-7) will convene from October 29 – November 2, 2018 in Libreville, Gabon. The AWW-7 theme is "Toward achieving water security and safely managed sanitation for Africa".
- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will be hosting the AMCOMET-WMO-World Bank-ECOWAS Hydromet Forum in September 2018: 19-22 Sept. 2018
- The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) will be hosting the AMCOMET-WMO-World Bank-ECCAS Hydromet Forum in November 2018. The 4th Conference of the Committee of Directors of Meteorological and Hydrological Services will convene alongside the Forum.
- Meteorological Association of Southern Africa/ Annual General Meeting (MASA AGM), 22-27 July 2018
- Courtesy call by the D/AFLDC to the WMO Office (ESA), Nairobi Kenya, 10 August 2018
- SG's visits to Rwanda and Tanzanian NMHSs, 20-22 August 2018
- DRA training programme for Regional Offices, 10-14 September 2018
- ACREI Launch, Data Rescue Project Launch, 30-31 August 2018

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