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| **World Meteorological Organization**  **Inter-Commission Coordination Group on WIGOS**  **Eighth Session** Geneva, Switzerland, 24-26 January 2019 | **ICG-WIGOS-8/Doc. 5.4** |
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**5. PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPLMENTATION OF WIGOS**

**5.4 Joint GCOS-WIGOS-UNFCCC-Copernicus-GFCS Workshop on Improving**

**observations to support climate policy, adaptation and mitigation in East Africa**

(31 Oct - 2 Nov 2018, Entebbe, Uganda)

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| **Summary and purpose of document**  The document provides the key messages from the Joint GCOS-WIGOS-UNFCCC-Copernicus-GFCS Workshop on Improving observations to support climate policy, adaptation and mitigation in East Africa, 31 October-2 November 2018, Entebbe, Uganda. |

**Action proposed**

The session will be invited to review the key messages from the Workshop and

to advise on how to proceed further with this activity.

**References:**

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**5.4 Joint GCOS-WIGOS-UNFCCC-Copernicus-GFCS Workshop on Improving observations to support climate policy, adaptation and mitigation in East Africa, 31 October-2 November 2018, Entebbe, Uganda**

**5.4.1 Background/Goals of the Workshop**

The following goals of the Workshop were identified:

* To demonstrate the link from local observations to global reanalysis and on to local climate applications and services. These services will support responses to the regional changes such as the findings of the IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C;
  + To provide training in access to and use of Copernicus data products.
* Identify observational gaps in the regional needed to support global reanalysis and numerical weather prediction and develop plans to address these needs;
  + Link to the HIGHWAY project (High impact Weather lAke sYstem) as example of a project aiming to reduce loss of life, in this case by providing better prediction of high impact weather on Lake Victoria.

**5.4.2 Key messages from the Workshop**

1. Most of the value of sustained, systematic meteorological observations can only be realised at a national level if they are reported and exchanged internationally. International reporting of a basic network of observations of surface pressure and upper air observations leads to improvements in local weather prediction and national seasonal forecasts of temperature and precipitation. International numerical weather prediction and reanalysis are used to provide the boundary conditions for local models and assessments.
2. While most of the five countries in the region (Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania) have operating networks and sites and are meeting WMO requirements, many of the stations are not fully reporting as needed by international numerical weather prediction and reanalysis centres (hourly for surface stations and every 12 hours for upper air observations). Only about 30% of the GCOS Surface Reference Network stations and no GCOS Upper Air stations meet this need.
3. The accuracy of climate services depends on the quality and quantity of the observations. Observations underpin all climate services, planning climate policy and adaptation.
4. Currently, WMO reporting requirements are not sufficient to support global NWP and consequently national climate services. However, the proposed WMO Global Basic Observation Network (GBON) will allow numerical weather prediction and reanalysis centres to meet the regional needs.
5. The workshop recognised the support of governments in the region for observations, but further and sustained support is needed for the required long term sustainability of observation
6. The workshop developed an outline for a regional plan to improve the value chain from observations to climate services in East Africa covering:
   * + Planning to ensure the sustainability of systems and staff: recognising the value of life cycle management of equipment and in-house staff training and mentoring,
     + Calibration and maintenance policies,
     + Meeting the observational needs of international numerical weather prediction and reanalysis centres,
     + Building on the benefits of the HIGHWAY project around Lake Victoria to enable fully functioning regional network of stations,
     + Support regional collaboration to build technical and operational capabilities.
7. Training by a representative of the Copernicus Climate Data Store increased the understanding of participants on how its global datasets can be used locally to produce nationally tailored climate services.
8. The workshop noted the opportunities to use the global datasets from international numerical weather prediction and reanalysis centres by national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHS) to support national climate services.
9. NMHS wish to improve the ways they communicate forecasts, such as the probabilities of extreme events, to the public and decision makers.
10. Regional climate service platforms could support communication and science-based decision making on adaptation.

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