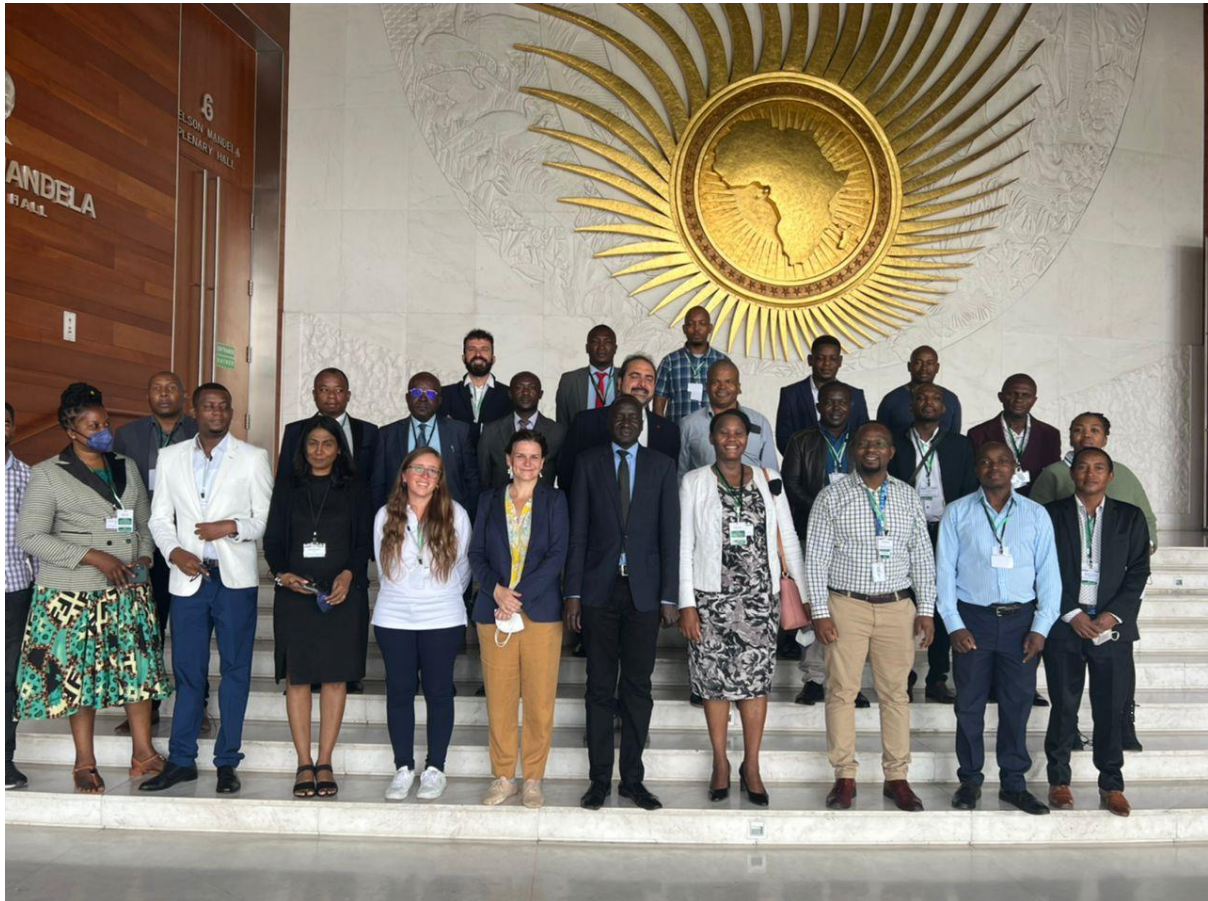


MISSION REPORT



By

Name	Position	email
Dominique KUITSOUC	DRM Expert	dkuitsouc61@gmail.com
Mduduzi GAMEDZE	Sunshine Climate Expert	gamedze@acmad.org

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Venue Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

AU Head Quarter, Small Conference Hall 3 | New Conference Center

Background

Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to natural hazards, climate and socioeconomic changes. In addition to other measures, establishment of multi-hazard early warning systems at all levels in the continent is therefore essential and urgent. The Africa Roadmap for improving the Availability, Access and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action (<https://www.preventionweb.net/publications/view/73818>) outlines actions that would be undertaken at continental, regional and national level to facilitate development and operationalization of multi-hazard early warning systems. 2. The Italian Government has provided project funds through UNDRR to support the implementation of the roadmap and initiate the establishment of Continental Multi-hazard Early Warning systems. The project builds upon the results of the regional programme “Build Resilience to Natural Hazards in sub-Saharan Region Countries and Communities” implemented by UNDRR over the last decade. The programme, among other important results, has institutionalized disaster risk reduction units at both continental, sub-regional and national levels respectively through the Africa Union Commission (AUC), the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the national platforms for disaster risk reduction. It also supported the revitalization and continued operation of the African Working Group for Disaster Risk Reduction, which brings together all relevant stakeholders from continental to national and local levels. UNDRR also supported the organization of biennial meetings of Africa Regional Platform and Africa Ministerial Conference on DRR. 3. The DRR Units across the different levels constitute the backbone of a network that is the base for building the African Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System for DRR (AMHEWAS for DRR). The AMHEWAS for DRR is supported by several mechanisms including the conclusions of the African Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction - AWGDRR which held its 15th session in April 2019. The AWGDRR is chaired by the AUC and UNDRR is the Secretariat. Biannual AWGDRR meetings bring together regional and national DRR focal points with key DRR actors to implement the Programme of Action (PoA) for the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Participants recognized the importance of EWS and the need for the AUC to have a framework for AU intervention in Member States during a disaster. A specific action point was identified to: “Establish and operationalize a continental and regional multi-hazard EWS, with information sharing mechanisms in place to link early warning information to early action and improve outreach to communities, including by engaging the media in the process”. While implementing the specific action point, the below criteria must be respected. The initiative builds upon existing capacity and infrastructures and improves the capacity to systematically, timely and effectively access and use existing data and information. The initiative will analyse existing systems and operationalize an open-source platform to facilitate the exchange and analysis of data and information among the different existing systems, where these do not have sufficient capacity. The initiative will equally support the development of the Standard Operating Procedures for the exchange and analysis of the data, along with the review of the legal and institutional framework to consolidate and formalize roles and responsibility of each partner, as well as the use of the information generated by the newly established system. 4. Institutional and operational

Framework for Early Warning System has been prepared by AUC, with the support of UNDRR, UNDP and the technical assistance of CIMA. The Framework was validated by the Member States on 22nd October 2021 in Nairobi at the multi-hazard early system conference, equally facilitated by UNDRR. 5. The AMHEWAS Situation Room, inaugurated on 28th February 2022 in AUC headquarter in Addis Ababa is the centre of coordination for the operational activities, linked with IGAD Disaster Operation Centre Situation Room, inaugurated on 27th October 2021 and ACMAD Multi-Hazard Early Warning Advisory Centre. The situation rooms are envisioned to offer multiple information products which are designed specifically for AUC organs, RECs and Member States. The most prominent products from the situation room to be availed on a regular basis are the Continental Watch and Disaster Situation Reports, as inspired by the exchanges with and the study visit to the Italian Civil Protection and the European Union Emergency Response and Coordination Centre. The continental Watch serves to monitor hazards over the continent by issuing continental watch (twice a week); the continental disaster event reports provide updates on current disasters and their related impacts through Event Situation reports. 6. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), AUC, ACMAD, IGAD and CIMA Research Foundation organized a 5-day Training of Trainers (ToT) course in July 2022, during which a first group of trainers from AUC, ICPAC, ACMAD and some member states already using the myDewetra system (Tanzania, Mozambique) has been formed to support in future training activities. During the ToT the educational objectives and guidelines for the training activities scheduled from September 2022 were drawn up, aiming at disseminating the AMHEWAS products in the different RECs

Training Goal and Objectives

The main goal of the Training was to provide to the Member States and the Institutions of the RECs:

- a basic knowledge on what is AMHEWAS and of the AUC activities in the field of DRR
- an enhanced capacity of early warning and disaster risk management through the AMHEWAS multi-hazard early warning framework, to reduce disaster losses and mortalities in RECs and Member States.

8. At the end of the training the participants should have the necessary knowledge and skills to produce and apply multi-hazard early warning information among Member States, hydrometeorological agencies and humanitarian organizations for effective preparedness and early action. In particular, the participants will be able to:

- understand how to use the early warning tools developed in the framework of AMHEWAS for early warning and early action at the national/regional scale
- use the global data available on myDewetra and interpret them into information useful for DRR
- collaborate in continental watch production as well as Situational Report

- integrate local early warning bulletin and report with information provided by AMHEWAS
- promote collaboration between RECs and AUC for knowledge exchange

Methodology

The training consisted of both theoretical and practical sessions, conducted by CIMA and AMHEWAS trainers (at least 2), that have already been formed during the Training of Trainers, held in Addis at the AMHEWAS Situation Room between 18 and 22 July 2022.

The theoretical sessions were focused on providing introductory knowledge on the Situation Room operations to the trainees. These sessions covered:

- EWS basis and requirements
- Theoretical and procedural topics
- Technical tools and products

This was interspersed by short hands-on exercises and short sessions conducted by the current Situation Room Officers.

Practical sessions were carried out on the key AMHEWAS tools and products divided into 4-5 working groups:

- myDewetra and hazard assessment
- Continental Watch and impact-based forecast
- Situation Report

The trainees during the practical sessions had the chance to concretely try the operations of the Situation Room.

Participants and selection

The training envisaged the participation of a maximum of 20 participants:

- 1 representative from each Member state of SADC (Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kingdom of Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe), operationally working in hydrological service or meteorological service or civil protection
- 2 representatives from SADC Climate Center
- 1 representative from SADC DRR Unit

Participants were expected to satisfy the following criteria:

- Being involved in EWS projects and activities at the national/regional/continental level

- Being proficient in English language

The Training was an event co-organized by the African Union Commission, UNDRR and CIMA Research Foundation.

Program

A first-attempt version of the training agenda was provided. The definitive agenda was adjusted according to the number of participants and the logistic that was adopted. The final version of the agenda was sent to the participants before the 5th of September.

	Sept. 19	Sept. 20	Sept. 21	Sept. 22	Sept. 23
9:00 - 10:00	<i>Registration of the participants</i>				
10:00 - 10:30	Institutional greetings and welcome to the training AUC (Kai), UNDRR (Katharina), SADC (Gina Sithembiso), CIMA (Marco Massabò)	My Dewetra session 2 (obs+static) CIMA (Laura)	Country from REC sharing experience on (Participants from Democratic of Congo, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho)	Country from REC sharing experience <i>transboundary risk</i> (Participants from Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Angola)	Country from REC sharing experience (Participants from Tanzania, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe)
10:30 - 11:00	AMHEWAS introduction AUC (Kai) An update on SHOC SADC (Gina)	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 - 11:30	<i>Welcome break</i>	Q&A session	Q&A session	Q&A session	Q&A session
11:30 - 13:00	Presentation of the trainers and introduction CIMA (Laura)	MyDewetra session 3 (forecast) CIMA (Andre)	Continental Watch ACMAD (Sunshine)	Situational Report ICPAC (Jully)	From Early Warning to Early Actions session 1 CIMA (Marco)
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 - 15:30	Visit of AMHEWAS operational structures AUC (John/Lusajo)	Group work on myDewetra Trainers will be facilitating the groups	Group work on CW session 1 (production) Sunshine	Group work on Situational Report session 1 (production) July	From Early Warning to Early Actions session 2 Round Table CIMA UNDRR AUC
15:30 - 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>

16:00 - 17:00	MyDewetra session 1	Group work on myDewetra Trainers will be facilitating the groups	Group work on CW session 2 (communication)	Group work on Situational Report session 2 (Peer to peer evaluation)	Final discussion and remarks; certificates delivery CIMA (Andrea and Laura)
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Actions and Recommendations

During the workshop discussions it emerged that there was a need to have simultaneous translation as there were Portuguese and French speakers in the workshop who struggled with the English instruction. It is therefore a realistic necessity to have one of the lead instructors to be a bi-lingual trainer fluent in Portuguese and French if it is not possible to hire translators.

All participants in the training agreed to be included in the distribution list of the AHMEWAS Continental Watch bulletin and the Situation reports regularly issued by the African Union Commission Situation room in collaboration with the ACMAD and IGAD Situation rooms.

Annexes

Annex A

Presentations given and exercises conducted during the training are available on the google link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1llrgV09EqOMbQtdRAE3N0Hff07XtfO-A>

Annex B

Presentation of Certificates to Trainees:





