

MISSION REPORT



Focus-Africa Consortium members, Pretoria, South Africa, 30-31 May and 3 June 2021

Delegate(s) Mduuzi Sunshine GAMEDZE

Date 10 to 12 May 2022

Venue Southern Sun Hotel,
Pretoria, South Africa

BACKGROUND

The [EU FOCUS-Africa \(FA\) H2020 project](#) that was started to be implemented in September 2020 aims to develop sustainable, tailored climate services to support improved climate-related outcomes in key climate-sensitive sectors – agriculture and food security, water, energy and infrastructure – across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. The project incorporates eight case studies in five southern African countries (South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Mauritius) involving a wide range of end-uses and users. The case studies illustrate how the use of climate science, information and products can maximize socio-economic benefits in the Southern Africa region and potentially in the whole of Africa.

Planning and organizing stakeholders' workshops, as part of the project's workpackage-1 activities, is instrumental for collecting inputs from internal and external entities that are engaged in the development of the FOCUS-Africa climate services. Workshops will be organized almost every 8 months featuring each time one of the countries involved in the case studies. Depending on the travel limitation imposed by the COVID pandemic, the workshops will be hosted virtually or by the targeted country.

The [First FA Stakeholders' Workshop](#) was focused on South Africa and took place virtually. It was comprised of Internal workshop (30 November – 1 December 2020) and external stakeholder workshop (9 December 2020) with a focus on related food security case study to incentivize a wider local participation. The [Second FA Stakeholders' Workshop](#) was debuted by a one-day General Assembly virtual meeting that brought together the FA consortium members, close partners, AB members, EU officers and H2020 sister projects coordinators. This was followed by a two-day virtual FOCUS-Africa external stakeholders meeting focusing on the case studies in Tanzania for energy, infrastructure, and food security.

The Third FOCUS-Africa Workshop took place in a hybrid mode in South Africa 2022 to bring together the consortium members, close partners, advisory board (AB) members, European Union (EU) officers, and local stakeholders in South Africa and Mauritius to better understand the local needs and requirements for related case studies in food security and water. The workshop was composed of internal and stakeholder sessions to cover both regional perspectives for the whole project and particularly explore about local gaps, opportunities, and activities in South Africa and Mauritius.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the workshop are summarized under two main categories of consortium assembly and stakeholder workshops:

Consortium Only Assembly objectives:

- Increase efficiency in the implementation of the project through face-to-face coordination meetings between all work packages (WPs) and case studies (CSs) partners/ leaders;
- Explore interlinkages and synergies between all different WPs and CSs of the project;
- Explore other possibilities for research and innovation for all WPs and CSs;
- Strengthen collaboration between local partners in the region, particularly in South Africa: WITS, CSIR, ACMAD, University of Cape town, Land Bank.
- Assess synergies with the other projects, such as the H2020 Sister projects (Down2Earth & CONFER) and CLIMSA

Stakeholder Workshop Objectives:

- Promote visibility of FOCUS-Africa project by showcasing the progress and challenges of the case studies in South Africa and Mauritius;
- Understand and review users' requirements, perspectives, and strategies for climate services delivery in South Africa and Mauritius;
- Assess the status of the stakeholder's engagement;
- Expand the stakeholder network in South Africa and Mauritius;
- Identify risks and lessons learned from 2020/2021 and COVID-19;
- Better understand end-users' requirements;
- Explore the opportunities for capacity building.

PARTICIPANTS

WMO

Roberta Boscolo, Sebastian Grey, Hamid Bastani

CSIR

Trevor Lumsden, Elliot Moyo, Shingirai Nangombe, Mohau Mateyisi, Asmerom Beraki (virtual), Chris Rankin (virtual), Teke Ramotubei (virtual)

BSC

Ilaria Vigo, Dragana Bojovic, Sarah Oktenjak, Raul Marcos (virtual)

AMIGO

Marcello Petitta, Laura Trentini

WITS

Jonathan Padavatan, Francios Engelbrecht, Jessica Steinkopf

EDF

Hiba Omrani

Land Bank

Nehru Pillay, Adika Rammally (virtual)

TMA

Mecklina Merchades, Vaileth Jonas Masaba

DCCMS

Lucy Mtilatila, Charles Vanya

SSSA

Robel Takele, Mercy Macharia

UCT

Bruce Hewitson, Lisa van Aardenne, Peter Johnston

ACMAD

Sunshine Gamedze, Esther Jansen

PLAN

Rosaria Mabica

MO

John Faragher, Scott Burgan, Elisabeth Thompson (virtual)

WEMC

Alberto Troccoli, Kristian Nielsen, Nathalia Correa (virtual), Penny Boorman (virtual), Salomon Obahoundje (virtual), Shelbie Walker (Virtual)

PROGRAM

Day 1: 30 May 2022

Time (SAST/ UTC+2)	Activity	Responsible
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9h00-14h00	Arrival	
14h00-14h30	Opening remarks, participants introduction, highlights of the project to date	Roberta Boscolo (WMO)
14h30-15h30	Consortium meeting - WPs 5 minutes presentation for each WPs	Moderator: Roberta Boscolo (WMO) WPs Leaders/Representatives: WP1: Hamid Bastani (WMO), WP2: Asmerom Beraki (CSIR), WP3: Marcello Petitta (Amigo), WP4: Raul Marcos (BSC), WP5: Alberto Troccoli (WEMC), WP6: Yasmina Dkhissi (LGI), WP7: Sunshine Gamedze (ACMAD)
15h30-16h00	Coffee break	
16h00-17h30	Consortium meeting- WPs (continued) Open discussion on WPs, interlinkages, synergies, etc.	Moderator: Roberta Boscolo WPs Leaders/Representatives
19h00-21h00	Dinner	

Day 2: 31 May 2022

Time (SAST/ UTC+2)	Activity	Responsible
9h00 -9h10	Introduction and recap from day 1	Roberta Boscolo (WMO)
9h10-10h30	Consortium meeting- CSs Presentations (10-12' each) - Lessons learned from field trips (Mozambique, Mauritius, Tanzania)	Moderator: Roberta Boscolo (WMO) CSs Leaders/ Representatives: CS1: Trevor Lumsden (CSIR), CS2: Dragana Bojovic (BSC), CS3: Robel Miteku/Mercy Macharia (SSSA), CS4: Dragana Bojovic (BSC), CS5: Marcello Petitta (Amigo) (in lieu of MO), CS6: Alberto Troccoli (WEMC) (in lieu of MO), CS7: Hiba Omrani (EDF), CS8: Mohau Mateyisi (CSIR)
10h30-11h00	Coffee break	
11h00-12h30	Consortium meeting- CSs Parallel sessions- Break out groups	CSs Leaders/ Representatives listed above Facilitators: Hamid Bastani (WMO), Sebastian Grey (WMO), Kristian Nielsen (WEMC)
12h30-14h00	Lunch & group photo	

14h00-14h30	Consortium meeting – CSs Introductory presentations – Food Water Energy Nexus	Chair: Ilaria Vigo (BSC) Speakers: Shingirai Nangombe (CSIR), Joel Botai (SA Weather Service)
14h30-15h30	Consortium meeting Parallel sessions- Break out groups on Food Water Energy nexus	BoG#1 (Plenary room): Moderator: Shingirai Nangombe (CSIR), Facilitator: Sebastian Grey (WMO), Note taker: Yasmina Dkhissi (LGI) BoG#2 (Room 30pp): Moderator: Ilaria Vigo (BSC), Facilitator: Hamid Bastani (WMO), Note taker: Sara Octenjak (BSC) BoG#3 (Room 20pp): Moderator: Dragana Bojovic (BSC), Facilitator: Kristian Nielsen (WEMC), Note taker: Adéola Jaiyeola (LGI)
15h30-16h00	Coffee break	

16h00-17h15	Consortium meeting- CSs Open discussion on Food Water Energy nexus	Moderator: Ilaria Vigo (BSC)
17h15-17h30	Wrap up internal workshop	Roberta Boscolo (WMO)

Day 3 (Wednesday, 1 June) – Stakeholder Workshop (Food Security- South Africa)

Plenary Facilitator: Kristian Nielsen

Time (SAST/ UTC+2)	Activity	Responsible
9h00-9h20	Opening remarks- introduction & overview of project	Roberta Boscolo (WMO), Dr Bethuel Sehlapelo (CSIR)
9h20-9h35	Presentations <u>Land Bank</u> End user perspective on Case Study 1	Moderator: Francois Engelbrecht (Wits) Nehru Pillay (Land Bank)
9h35-9h50	<u>CSIR</u> Overview of Case Study 1 objectives and approach	Trevor Lumsden (CSIR)

	Questions	
10h05-10h50	<p>Climate service user requirements</p> <p><u>Panel Discussion</u> What are users' challenges and coping strategies, what climate services are currently available, what are the barriers to using existing services, what improvements are needed to climate services</p>	<p>Chair: Elliot Moyo (CSIR)</p> <p>Panel: Todani Nemadzhilili (Land Bank) Refilwe Mokgajane (DARD) Willem Landman (Univ of Pretoria) Michael Mengistu (SA Weather Service) Bruce Hewitson (UCT)</p>
10h50-11h15	Tea Break	
11h15-11h35 11h35-11h50 11h50-12h45	<p>Socio-economic context</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> The importance of agriculture in the North West province and climate change adaptation initiatives</p> <p>Questions</p> <p>Break-out Groups (3 in parallel) Consider perspectives from other food security case studies on end user requirements and the role of climate services in tackling socio-economic challenges</p>	<p>Chair: Ilaria Vigo (BSC)</p> <p>Diketso Mache (DALRRD)</p> <p>Moderators: Dragana Bojovic (BSC) Mercy Macharia (Sant'Anna) Sara Octenjak (BSC)</p> <p>Facilitators: Hamid Bastani, Sebastian Grey, Kristian Nielsen, LGI</p>
12h45-14h15	Lunch	
14h15 – 15h00	<p>Farmer cultivation practices</p> <p><u>Panel Discussion</u> Access to fertilizer, irrigation & improved varieties; planting regime/timing, drought mitigation strategies, disease & pest management, livestock challenges</p>	<p>Chair: Trevor Lumsden (CSIR)</p> <p>Panel: Lebogang Mabe (farmer) Thatayaone Bolokang (DARD) Johan Malherbe (ARC)</p>

15h00-15h15	Break	
15h15-16h00	<u>Break-out Groups</u> (3 in parallel) Consider perspectives from other food security case studies – differences to South Africa practices, what drought mitigation strategies are used elsewhere	Moderators: Dragana Bojovic (BSC) Mercy Macharia (Sant’Anna) Sara Octenjak (BSC) Facilitators: Hamid Bastani, Sebastian Grey, Kristian Nielsen, LGI
16h00-17h00	Report back from the day’s break-out sessions	Moderator: Trevor Lumsden (CSIR) Nominated rapporteurs

Day 4 (Thursday, 2 June) – Stakeholder Workshop (Water-Mauritius)

Plenary Facilitator: LGI

Time (SAST/ UTC+2)	Activity	Responsible
9h00-9h15	Recap of the previous day and introduction to the next sessions on CS8	Roberta Boscolo (WMO), Mohau (CSIR)
9h15 – 9h30	Presentations <u>Mauritius Meteorological Services (MMS)</u> – setting the scene on climate, climate hazards and climate services in Mauritius	Moderator: Sebastian Grey (WMO) Renganaden Virasami (MMS) (remote)
9h30 – 9h45	<u>WRU</u> – Water resources management in Mauritius: Implications and opportunities for climate services	Rishi Bissessur (WRU)
9h45 – 10h00	<u>Food and Agriculture Research and Extension Institute (FAREI)</u> - Crop and livestock management in a changing climate	Prathima Poonpoon (FAREI)

10h00 – 10h15	CSIR – bringing it all together: Case Study 8 objectives, approach and timelines	Mohau Mateyisi (CSIR)
10h15 - 10h30	Questions	
10h30 – 10h45	Tea break	
10h45 – 11h00	Understanding users’ perspectives and socioeconomic context	Introduction: Ilaria Vigo (BSC)
	<u>Barcelona Supercomputing Center</u> - Introductory presentation on understanding socioeconomic benefits of climate services in the water and food security sectors	Moderators: Elliot Moyo (CSIR), Ilaria Vigo (BSC), Sebastian Grey (WMO), Mecklina Merchades (TMA)
	<u>Part 1: Break-out Groups / Open discussion</u>	
	Climate services needs.	
	<u>Part 2: Break-out Groups / Open Discussion</u>	Facilitators: Hamid Bastani, Sebastian Grey, Kristian Nielsen, LGI
11h00 – 12h00	The role of climate services in tackling socio-economic challenges (benefits & risks)	
12h00-12h30	Report back from the day’s break-out sessions	Moderator: Mohau Mateyisi (CSIR)
		Nominated rapporteurs
12h30-13h00	Wrap-up and way forward	Trevor Lumsden (CSIR)
		Mohau Mateyisi (CSIR)
		Roberta Boscolo (WMO)
13h00-14h00	Lunch	

14h00 – 15h00	NMHS capacity building session – Seasonal forecasting methodologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the session • Objective seasonal forecasting – lessons from GHACOF/ICPAC • Seasonal forecasting methodologies at ACMAD 	Moderator: Sunshine Gamedze Sunshine Gamedze (ACMAD) John Faragher (Met Office) Sunshine Gamedze (ACMAD)
15h00– 15h30	Tea break	
15h30 – 16h30	NMHS capacity building session (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal forecasting in SADC region • Facilitated discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How do NMHSs see objective forecasting? ○ What is NMHS role in objective approaches at SARCOF? ○ How do NMHSs interact with user in different sectors to share the seasonal forecast? 	Esther Jansen (ACMAD) Sunshine Gamedze (ACMAD)

Day 5: 3 June 2022

Time (SAST/ UTC+2)	Activity	Responsible
9h00- 10h30	Mid-term report discussions/ AOB	Roberta Boscolo
10h30-11h00	Coffee break	
11h00-12h30	Workshop's conclusion/ Action points	

WP7: Capacity development

Sunshine Gamedze (ACMAD)

(Link to the [WP7](#) ppt)

WP7 will contribute to develop the capacity in the regional NMHSs, SADC Climate Services Centre (SADC-CSC), research institutes and other identified climate service providers to generate tailored, science-based, innovative and technology driven climate products. This WP includes assessing the training needs (Task 7.1), review and upgrade of training curricula (7.2) based on the identified training needs, develop and test training materials in collaboration with other relevant ongoing initiatives and activities in the region (7.2), and develop online training resources (7.3). Among the pre-mentioned tasks, the first one is completed, the last one is not started yet and the other two are ongoing. Key training needs have emerged on forecast methods and tools, including the verification of forecasts. There is a clear linkage under climate services communication (user-interface) with ClimSA project. In terms of other activities, ACMAD is supporting case studies in Mauritius and Tanzania through local consultants they have recruited.

During the discussion, it was mentioned that capacity development activities are also integrated in the case studies. Every capacity building initiative in the case studies should also be linked to WP7 actions. A roadmap is required for contribution to the next SARCOF, which provides an opportunity for a FOCUS-Africa event, a presentation, or some joint activity with ClimSA. It was highlighted that the NMHSs need training on verification, quality management system, as well as an automated process for developing tailored products from collecting, verifying, storing, and managing data to being applied for different sectors. It was also mentioned that in-person trainings are more effective, though online modality enables more people to engage with less cost and time commitments. Perhaps, hybrid modality could be the most efficient way. The exact modality of the trainings would be discussed in future WP7 meetings. TMA offered to share knowledge in quality management system.

ACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEETING

The next workshop

- Instead of organizing three more workshops based on the initial plan of WP1, it was suggested to have one more stakeholder workshop and one final conference with sister projects, and plan to attend other related events (listed under WP1 presentation) to showcase the results of the project.
- The next workshop was agreed to be held in Mozambique in April/ May 2023, by which time WP5 will have some results to be show cased. WEMC, SSSA, LGI were asked to liaise with IIAM to define the exact time of the workshop.
- The last workshop (final conference) could be in Tanzania, given the fact that there are three case studies in Tanzania. Malawi is another viable option. This will need to be decided in consultation with the sister projects.
- The workshops are not the only way/time that consortium members could engage with stakeholders, and it was suggested to continue with planning new missions to interact more with stakeholders.

OUTCOMES, DECISIONS AND ACTION POINTS:

A list of the most important discussed points with respective actions is provided below:

1. Ensuring sustainability of the climate services developed in the project is an important issue that needs to be addressed in close collaboration with SADC NMHSs and through engaging with governance, local and high-level stakeholders. From the services point of view, developed tools should be easily applied within the already existed structure and address specific gaps and needs.
2. The issue of scalability could be addressed in different aspects, such as geographical or sectoral. It could be explored more under the Task 6.4: Market analysis and Scalability and Replicability Analysis (SRA) led by AMIGO-(LGI and AMIGO).
3. WPLs and CSLs are to organize coordination cross-cutting meetings between different WPs and CSs (**WPs/CSs leaders and WMO**).
4. Put more effort on **seasonal forecasting** as a common requirement in all food security case studies. Also, communicate the uncertainty of the impact of models to farmers (**WPs 3,4,5**).
5. The importance of involving indigenous knowledge in developing phase of climate services, or at least in the narration part of the products (**All WPs/CSs**).
6. Next workshop will be in Mozambique in April/May 2023. There will be a final conference with sister projects, which is still to be planned.

7. Consortium members are to participate in other potential events and conferences (listed under WP1 presentation) to show case the project results.

8. There is need to start to showcase the results in the next workshop and secure enough time for testing the developed services and products before the end of the project **(All WPs/CSs)**.

9. Develop KPIs to monitor the progress of the project in terms of five main impacts. This should be done in consultation with Advisory Board and ExCom members **(LGI)**.

10. Continue planning new missions and engage with stakeholders as much as possible and involve their feedback in the development phases of the climate services and products **(All CSs)**.

11. Continue to collaborate with sister projects on fostering collaboration between countries in the region **(WMO)**

