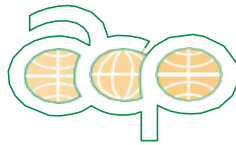




ClimSA

INTRA-ACP CLIMATE SERVICES AND RELATED APPLICATIONS PROGRAMME



Regional Climate Outlook Forum for the Gulf of Guinea Region 2023 edition

DATE: 20 to 24 February 2023

Venue: Lomé-Togo

**Theme «Climate Service for Early Warning and for Rapid Action in the
Gulf of Guinea region»**

I. INTRODUCTION

ACMAD in collaboration with the AGRHYMET Center and Meteorological Department of Togo with its technical partners organizes the regional seasonal forecast forum under the theme “**Climate Service for Early Warning and for Rapid Action in the Gulf of Guinea region**”

This activity is organized within the framework of the "Climate Services and Applications (ClimSA)" program with the support and coordination of the African Center for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) of the Gulf of Guinea Region and other partners, are organizing the **Regional Climate Outlook Forum for the Gulf of Guinea Region 2023 edition**.

The Gulf of Guinea region of West and Central Africa is prone to climatic extremes, particularly droughts and floods which are often very devastating for most countries in the region. Some of these climatic extremes have been associated with the recurrence of episodes of sea surface temperature anomalies in the equatorial and tropical parts of the Atlantic and the Indian Ocean followed by the Oscillation of the North Tropical Atlantic.

Each year, extreme weather, hydrological and climatic disasters (severe storms, floods, heat waves and droughts) cause loss of life and significant socio-economic impacts, significantly compromising socio-economic development and growth, in particular in countries low resources.

To better manage these various risks, it is necessary to promote the production of scientific knowledge for decision-making and to strengthen the operational systems for the prevention and management of these risks, so countries must have access to weather and climate information. reliable on the risks and be able to use this information to make judicious investments in order to manage and reduce the risks, while strengthening their capacity in Disaster Management.

The Seasonal forecasting is useful for adapting to climate variability and change as well as disaster management. Indeed, the preparation and dissemination of information characterizing the rainy season even before it starts, allows Disaster Management Agencies, decision-makers and various actors to make optimal choices for exploiting resources during the season for economic and social development. Thus, knowing in advance the characteristics of the rainy season (early or late start, excess or deficit precipitation) would allow Disaster Management Agencies to better take strategic decisions or other mitigation measures to ensure the preparation and the response to disasters.

The seasonal forecast makes it possible to organize in advance the emergency and rescue systems in the flood zones in the case of a forecast of a wet year, while the forecast of the drought allows

preparing against possible shortages of water or poor agricultural production and hydroelectric power that can lead to food insecurity and load shedding.

In order to better produce and use its seasonal forecasts, It is necessary to strengthen the collaboration between the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and the Disaster Management Agencies in the region in order to have a better understanding of the disasters of origin climate change and their predictability, discuss the implication of seasonal climate forecasting and identify the measures necessary to reduce their impacts.

The PRESAGG was initiated in 2014 in collaboration with meteorological services, regional and international institutions in response to the need for information on the climate of the Gulf of Guinea to better manage climate risks in this region.

The seasonal forecasting process in the Gulf of Guinea includes the following components:

- A pre-forum for training and producing the seasonal forecast, strengthening the technical capacities of regional and national experts and evaluating the performance of past forecasts and their uses;
- A meeting between regional and international experts to identify and analyze the seasonal forecast products available and provide a regional consensus in probabilistic form;
- A forum in which climate experts present and interpret national, regional and international forecasts and develop a press release intended for politicians and decision-makers for the region. In collaboration with the representatives of the user sectors, the participants in the forum discuss the potential applications of seasonal forecasts for action and decision support in these sectors impacted by climate variability, notably the agriculture, management of water and disasters;
- A special session with media experts to ensure effective communication and dissemination of forecasts, likely hazards, potential impacts and the preparedness and response measures proposed.

The forum will be followed by the development by each country of detailed national seasonal forecasts with alert information through the national climate outlook forums, the results of which will be communicated to decision-makers and the general public. ACMAD supports countries in pilot initiatives for the production, communication and use of localized seasonal forecasts.

I. OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the forum is to contribute to strengthening the resilience of the populations of the Gulf of Guinea in the face of climatic hazards during the period March-April-May-June 2023. This is done through training, production of forecasting, interaction with users / decision makers and communication during the forum.

The specific objectives are to:

- Promote the exchange of knowledge between climate experts and users of climate information and services;
- Produce consensual seasonal climate forecasts valid for the seasons March to June 2023 in the region;
- Facilitate the application of these forecasts for water management, disaster risk, agriculture and the improvement of resilience in other socio-economic sectors;
- Check the 2022 forecasts, facilitate the collection of information on experiences and lessons learned from the use of the 2022 seasonal forecasts;
- Discuss the impacts and consequences of the 2023 seasonal consensus forecasts;
- Formulate strategies and practices for the management of risks and opportunities in the socio-economic sectors, particularly agriculture and water.

II. EXPECTED RESULTS

- The technical capacities of national experts are strengthened;
- Consensual seasonal forecast, hazards, potential impacts and response measures produced and disseminated;
- Enhanced interaction with users.

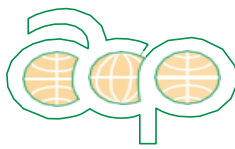
III. Program

The PRESAGG-2023 program consists of two parts:

- A 4-day pre-forum from 20 to 24 February 2023 dedicated to the training of national experts, the evaluation of performance and the use of the 2023 forecast, the production of consensual seasonal forecasts and discussions with Hydrologists and Agro-meteorologists;
- Discussion with the community of humanitarian and disaster risk managers and production of information on the likely hazards, potential impacts and measures for disaster management and humanitarian workers in the sub-region during the fourth day ;
- Presentation and exchanges with the media of the seasonal forecast, potential hazards and impacts, response measures, advice and advice for agriculture and water management during the fifth day

IV. Participation

This forum will bring together climate experts from NMHSs under the technical supervision of ACMAD (Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Gabon) universities and research centers, regional and international organizations involved in climate forecasting and its application. Donors and other regional and international governmental and non-governmental organizations are expected. Media and users of climate information and services from risk and water management, health, agriculture and food security, hydroelectric generation and distribution will participate. To participate, please complete the form below and email it to dgacmad@acmad.org, hubertkabengela@gmail.com



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REGISTRATION FORM

Name & surname		
Organisation Name and adresse		
Position		
Tel :	Fax :	Email:
Passport Number		
Support requested	Tavel :	Accommodation :
Date:	Name & signature	
(if you are an expert from NMHS of a Country in West/Central Africa, please complete below)		
Name and Signature of the Director of NMHS or PR of your country with WMO		
Please send the completed form to: dgacmad@acmad.org , hubertkabengela@gmail.com		

SUMMARY OF YOUR COMMUNICATION (if Applicable)

Please add pages if needed