

Date of advertisement: 17/03/2022

Deadline: 31/03/2022

Position: Short Term Expert in Climate services

A. Background

The adverse impact of climate change is a major challenge to socio-economic development globally. The African countries are particularly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, including water stress and scarcity, food insecurity, diminished hydropower generation potential, loss of biodiversity and ecosystem degradation, increased incidence of disease burden, destruction of infrastructure and high costs of disaster management as a result of increased frequency and intensity of droughts, floods, hot days and landslides.

The vulnerability is due to multiple existing stresses, from low adaptive capacity to intrinsic exposure to climate change, due to geographical conditions. Reliable information on climate change and variability can build resilience to climate impacts, saving lives, stopping and reversing desertification and improving livelihoods. Science-based climate information is critical for ACP countries to increase their resilience for adapting to climate change by addressing timely and effectively climate risks.

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established in 2009 at the World Climate Conference-3 organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to strengthen production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services.

The Paris Agreement makes specific reference to climate services by calling on parties to strengthen "scientific knowledge on climate, including early warning systems, in a manner that informs climate services and supports decision-making". The action supports partner countries with credible and reliable information for decision makers to ensure the implementation of their NDCs as well as their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Paris Agreements recognizes that the adverse effects of climate change have a range of direct and indirect implications for the effective enjoyment of human rights and that the effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already vulnerable. It calls for a gender-sensitive, participatory, and fully transparent approach.

Enabling access to climate information and providing user-friendly climate services will help decision makers at all levels, including end users, in a wide range of sectors including agriculture and food security, disaster risk reduction, sustainable water and health, development and implementation of climate change adaptation strategies to reduce desertification and promote the conservation of biological diversity.

While the use of climate information and forecasts is growing rapidly worldwide, many countries in Africa still lack the infrastructural, technical, human, and institutional capacities to provide high quality climate services.

The GFCS Intra ACP Climate Services and related Application (ClimSA) project in the framework of the 11th European Development Fund EU contributing to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). Its overall objective is to foster sustainable development by combating climate change through strengthening climate service value chain. To strengthen climate service value chain, CLIMSA will provide technical assistance, financial assistance, infrastructure and capacity building.

In line with CLIMSA, ACMAD action focuses on climate services delivery to agriculture, Health and Disaster Risk Reduction sectors. ACMAD action builds capacity of national and regional centres to provide climate services meeting regional and country needs, support the African Union and Regional Economic Communities as a global player in climate, disaster and sustainable development policy dialogue through climate information and statements for policy making.

This action is in line with ACMAD's mission to provide continental weather and climate watch information and act as the centre for excellence on the applications of meteorology for sustainable development in Africa.

The project contributes to building resilient prosperity and peace shared by the African Union agenda 2063 and the European Consensus on Development through climate resilient agriculture, disaster risk management, health, resilient economies and society.

ACMAD action will also support the services pillar of the AMCOMET integrated African strategy on meteorology with emphasis on building African multi hazards early warning system for resilience.

It will support integration aspiration of agenda 2063 in the field of meteorology by coordinating climate outlook fora, frameworks for climate services built on strong user interfaces.

Security and stability aspiration of agenda 2063 will benefit from climate services for preparation and early response to disasters which are driving migration, conflicts, socio-economic, environmental instability and poverty.

The project is funded by the 11th European Development fund of the European Union and implemented by ACMAD with the African Union Commission as contracting authority.

ACMAD is now recruiting experts to support implementation.

B. Short Term Expert in Climate Services

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the supervision of ClimSA Project Senior Thematic Expert (Lead Forecaster), and the overall supervision of the Director General of ACMAD, the incumbent will establish mechanisms to increase the efficiency in delivery of climate services.

He/she will perform the following duties:

- i. Scientific Secretariat expert following each synoptic to mesoscale, S2S and seasonal forecast briefings (two (2) Synoptic to mesoscale forecasts briefings per week, three (3) S2S briefings per month with one (1) per dekad and one Long Range forecast briefing,
- ii. Forecasts Verification and evaluation expert to verify model and consensus forecast against observations or analysis of observations and assess the forecast value through survey questionnaire, feedback collection and analysis leading to recommendations for improvements,
- iii. Reporting on briefings with summary of presentations and discussions as well as proposed actions to be implemented for the next briefings,
- iv. Supporting establishment and operation of Frameworks for climate services and particularly interactions between User Interface, capacity building and Climate Services Information System
- v. Training of ACMAD staff on the above roles and tasks

Required Qualification and Experience

- At least a Master of Science degree in climatology, Atmospheric Science, Meteorology or related discipline, a PhD will be an added advantage.
- A minimum of five years' experience in delivery of climate services working in a national, regional or international organization.
- Excellent understanding of the needs of key climate sensitive sectors in Africa.
- Strong background in researching user needs for weather and/or climate services, risk communication, or a related discipline.
- Excellent qualitative skills (document analysis, interviews and participatory workshops).
- Good quantitative skills (survey design and analysis).
- A strong track record of producing written outputs, e.g. technical reports, policy briefs and research papers.

Personal Skills and competencies

- Strong quantitative skills and an analytical mindset
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills – ability to work well in a multi-cultural team environment
- Experience in public speaking and public presentation
- Ability to communicate complex quantitative analysis and analytic approaches in a clear, precise, and actionable manner.
- Attention to details and proactive approach to problem solving.
- Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing in English and working knowledge of French is an added value.
- Ability to prepare written reports in a clear and concise manner.
- Ability to work with minimum supervision

Reporting

The selected candidate will report to the ClimSA Project Senior Thematic Expert (Lead Forecaster)

Remuneration

Salaries will depend on skills and former experience of the candidate. Per diems will be allocated for international travel.

Contract Duration

The position will be for initial period of three (3) months with possibility of renewable subject to performance and availability of funds.

Work Station

The Short-term Expert will be based at ACMAD headquarters in Niamey, Niger.

How to Apply

Interested candidates who meet the above criteria should submit:

- An application letter
- An updated CV with copies of degrees and certificates
- Contacts of three referees
- A brief methodology of one or two pages which describes how the applicant intends to address the assignment

Women are explicitly encouraged to apply.

Deadline for Applications : **31st March 2022**. Review of applications will start immediately after; vacancy can be extended until a suitable candidate is found.

The application can be addressed to:

ACMAD, 55 Avenue des Ministères, PL 6, BP 13184, 1er Arrondissement, Niamey-Plateau, Niger
dgacmad@acmad.org, grh@acmad.org , adkgilles@yahoo.com.