



ICPAC

IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE FORTY SEVENTH GREATER HORN OF AFRICA CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (GHACOF 47)

VENUE: ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA

DATE: 21-22 AUGUST 2017

1. INTRODUCTION

Since 1996 an innovative process known as the regional climate outlook forum (RCOF) has been running in many parts of the world aimed at providing consensus seasonal climate guidance to reduce climate-related risks in support of sustainable development efforts of the specific regions. RCOFs were initiated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Climate Information and Prediction Services (CLIPS) project in collaboration with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), regional institutions and other international organizations. The first meeting was held in 1996 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. RCOFs gained momentum as a regional response to the major 1997–1998 El Niño event, with the first Southern Africa Climate Outlook forum in September 1997. From 9 to 13 February 1998 the first Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 1) was organized for the March to May (MAM) 1998 rainfall season in Nairobi, Kenya, by the Drought Monitoring Centre (DMC), now called IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC). Since then the GHACOF process has been sustained in the region, and is currently organized on rotational basis within the participating ICPAC Member Countries three times annually for the main rainfall seasons of March to May (MAM), June to September (JJAS) and October to December (OND). The main goal of RCOFs is to provide consensus regional seasonal climate outlooks for applications in climate sensitive socioeconomic sectors in support of resilience building for sustainable development. ICPAC and its partners have so far organized forty six RCOFs for the GHA region. The Forty Seventh Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF47) will be held in Zanzibar, Tanzania from 21 to 22 August 2017. The theme of the forum will be “***Preparedness for potential El Niño event and related impacts***”.

GHACOF 47 is being organized when signals of El Niño phenomenon are currently being observed and is expected to fully manifest towards the end of the year. The forum will bring together climate scientists, researchers, users from key socio-economic sectors, governmental and non-governmental organizations, development partners, decision-makers, and civil society stakeholders among others. Several user specific workshops will be organized during the forum, including Agriculture and Food Security, Water Resources, Energy, Health, Marine and Oceanography, Media, and Disaster Risk

Management. The forum will be preceded by capacity building training workshop for climate experts from the NMHSs of the ICPAC Member States to be held at ICPAC, Nairobi, Kenya from 14 to 19 August 2017.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of GHACOF 47 will be to (a) review lessons/experiences from the use of the products provided during GHACOF46 (b) develop consensus regional climate outlook for the October to December 2017 rainfall season; (c) formulate mitigation strategies to the implications of consensus regional climate outlook on the key socio-economic sectors in the GHA region; and (d) provide a regional interaction platform for decision makers, climate scientists, research scientists as well as users of climate information.

3. ICPACMEMBER NMHSs INSTITUTIONS AND PARTNERS

The key stakeholders include the following National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), i.e., Institut Géographique du Burundi, Agence National de la Météorologie de Djibouti, Eritrea Meteorological Service, National Meteorological Services Agency of Ethiopia, Kenya Meteorological Department, Rwanda Meteorological Agency, Somalia Meteorological Services, South Sudan Meteorological Services, Sudan Meteorological Authority, Tanzania Meteorological Agency, Uganda National Meteorological Authority, and cooperating international partner organization such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), African Development Bank (AfDB), WMO Global Producing Centres of long-range forecasts, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Met Office of the United Kingdom, International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), and Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS-NET) among others.

4. PARTICIPANTS

The forum is open to all stakeholders including climate scientists from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, farmers, universities, research institutions and regional and international organizations engaged in climate prediction and applications as well as users from various socio-economic sectors. Regional and international, Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations will also be present.

5. WORKING LANGUAGE

English will be the working language for the forum.

6. PARTICIPATION SPONSORSHIP

Participants are expected to sponsor themselves. However, there will be limited sponsorship for some needy cases. Self-sponsored participants are expected to register online at the ICPAC website: www.icpac.net. The conference package will be covered by ICPAC for all participants.