



**ICPAC**

IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **THE FORTY EIGHTH GREATER HORN OF AFRICA CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (GHACOF48)**

**VENUE: MOMBASA, KENYA**

**DATE: 12 - 13 FEBRUARY 2018**

#### **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 - 13 February 1998** the first Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF1) 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 key socioeconomic sectors in support of resilience building for sustainable development. ICPAC in collaboration with partners has so far organized forty seven GHACOFs. The Forty Eighth Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF48) will be held in Mombasa, Kenya **from 12 - 13 February 2018**. The theme of the forum will be “***Mitigation of climate related impacts***”.

GHACOF 48 is being organized when La Niña phenomenon is developing over the equatorial Pacific Ocean. 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 **5 - 10 February 2018**.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The main objectives of GHACOF 48 will be to:

- (a) review lessons/experiences from the use of the products provided during GHACOF47;
- (b) develop consensus regional climate outlook for the March to May 2018 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. STAKEHOLDERS 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, WMO Global Producing Centres of long-range forecasts, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), DFID, Met Office of the United Kingdom, International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), CARE International, North Carolina State University 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](http://www.icpac.net). The conference package will be covered by ICPAC for all participants.