



ICPAC

IGAD Climate Prediction & Applications Centre

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE FORTY NINTH GREATER HORN OF AFRICA CLIMATE OUTLOOK FORUM (GHACOF49)

VENUE: DJIBOUTI, REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI

DATE: 13 - 14 MAY 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 outlook and 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. The first Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF1) was organized by the Drought Monitoring Centre (DMC), now called IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) in Nairobi, Kenya for the March to May (MAM) 1998 rainfall season in February 1998. 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 convened Forty Eight GHACOFs. The Forty Ninth Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF49) will be held in Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti **from 13 - 14 May 2018**. The theme of the forum will be ***“Preparedness to Mitigate Climate Related Impacts”***.

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. Key regional user specific workshops including Agriculture and Food Security, Water Resources, Energy, Health, Marine and Oceanography, Media, Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) and Disaster Risk Management will be organized during the forum. The forum will be preceded by capacity building training workshop for seasonal climate forecast by experts from the NMHSs of the ICPAC Member States to be held at ICPAC, Nairobi, Kenya from **7 - 11 May 2018**.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of GHACOF 49 will be to:

- (a) review lessons/experiences from the use of the products and services provided during GHACOF48;
- (b) develop consensus regional climate outlook for the June to September 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 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 States Agency for International Development (USAID), African Development Bank, WMO Global Producing Centres of long-range forecasts, World Bank, and Met Office of the United Kingdom, 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 can send registration enquiries to the official GHACOF email: ghacof@icpac.net. The conference package will be covered by ICPAC for all participants.