



Bridging Climate Information Gaps to Strengthen Capacities for Climate Informed Decision-Making

Proceedings of the Project Launch held on 11 September 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya



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Clim-Dev Special Fund



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACMAD	African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development
ACPC	African Climate Policy Centre
ACPC	African Climate Policy Centre;
AfDB	Africa Development Bank
ARC	AGRHYMET Regional Centre
ATPS	African Technology Policy Studies Network
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CCAP	Climate Change Action Plan
CDKN	Climate and Development Knowledge Network;
CDSF	Clim-Dev Special Fund
CIS	Climate Information Systems
CSRD	Climate Services Resilient Development
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance
ICE	Interactive Collaborative Environment
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre
KCCWG	Kenya Climate Change Working Group
KMD	Kenya Meteorological Department;
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
OSS	Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel
PACJA	Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RCC	North African Regional Climate Centre
RCMRD	Regional Centre for Mapping Resource for Development
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute- Africa Centre
TOT	Training of Trainers
WCDMP	World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

Acknowledgement

The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) and its partners namely, the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Africa Centre, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS), AGRHYMET Regional Centre (ARC), and the Regional Centre for Mapping Resource for Development (RCMRD) recently launched a project on Bridging Climate Information Gaps to Strengthen Capacities for Climate Informed Decision-Making. This report provides summary of the proceedings of the project launch held on the 11 September 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Nairobi. “

On behalf of the ATPS and its partners, I wish to thank the African Development Bank (AfDB) for providing the grant for the implementation of this project. I am grateful to all our invited stakeholders who came to support the launch of this project and to seek for potential collaborations for the implementation of this project.

Lastly, I extend my gratitude to the dedicated team at the ATPS Secretariat whose collective and dedicated efforts contributed to the success of the project launch.

Dr Nicholas Ozor,

ATPS Executive Director

African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS)

1.0 About the Project Launch

The African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) in partnership with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Africa Centre, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS), AGRHYMET Regional Centre (ARC), and the Regional Centre for Mapping Resource for Development (RCMRD) organized an event to formally launch the regional project on “Bridging Climate Information Gaps to Strengthen Capacities for Climate Informed Decision-making”.

The overall goal of this event was to build a robust foundation for the effective implementation of the project. Specifically, the event aimed to:

- Introduce the participants to the project goal, objectives, expected outcomes, outputs and implementation approach;
- Engage the participants in reviewing and defining the project’s methodology, tools, activities and timelines;
- Facilitate insightful discussions on ways of building high-level support and deepening stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the project;
- Identify any gaps in the project’s scope and enhance the project with additional experiences and perspectives from the respective participants; and
- Facilitate prospective partnerships and areas for synergies amongst the participants and with other relevant stakeholders.

The event brought together diverse stakeholders including policymakers, researchers, civil society actors, science journalists, advisors from government agencies, research and academic institutions, civil society and non-governmental organizations, and development agencies, among others. All the project implementing partners were present during the launch. The event achieved three key outcomes:

- Enhanced understanding of the project’s goals and objectives;
- A clear pathway and strategy for effective implementation to successfully achieve the project goals and objectives; and
- Increased opportunity for collaboration with other institutions and organizations.

1.1 Project Context

Africa has made considerable efforts over the past decade in the development of regional and national programs, strategies and institutions for generating robust climate information and providing services for national and regional development planning towards climate resilient and less carbon-intensive economies. Some of these programs, strategies and institutions include: the Climate Risk and Management Strategy (CRMA), the Climate Research for Development (CR4D) initiative, the Climate Change and Development Africa (CCDA) annual conference, the establishment of the African Climate Technology and Finance Centre and Network (ACTFCN), African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), and a special fund called the “Clim-Dev Special Fund” (CDSF). These initiatives provide an enabling environment for the integration of climate information and services into policies and development planning.

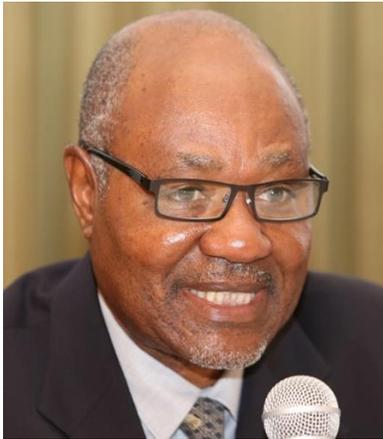
Despite these efforts, key challenges remain with regards to the low capacities of African countries to understand, analyse and deploy appropriate climate information to inform decision-making at various

levels (e.g. policy and practice) and the challenge of facilitating the integration of climate change adaptation and risk measures into development strategies and planning agenda. With the exception of Tunisia, where access to climate information and capacity to deploy information is fairly advanced, all other selected project countries are characterized by the low capacity to properly manage the climate-related risks confronting them, partly due to the lack of access climate information to support climate decision-making. Another reason is the lack of appreciation for the value of investing in climate information and its contribution to decision-making and planning. The need to develop professional and institutional capacities for climate change adaptation strongly features in the various development strategies, policies and visions of the selected countries, i.e. Cameroun (Vision 2035); Kenya (Vision 2030); Nigeria (Vision 2020); Malawi (Vision 2020); and Tunisia (Constitution-2016). In this regard, there is real need to continuously strengthen institutional capacities of African countries and to enhance regional cooperation in order to share valuable climate information and experiences, draw lessons and benchmark best practices while capitalizing on comparative advantages and complementarities of key regional institutions working on climate information.

The overall goal of this project is to strengthen the capacities of relevant stakeholders in five countries (Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Tunisia) to understand and deploy appropriate climate information and best practices to inform decision-making. It aims to support development planning to reduce vulnerability and foster a food-secure Africa. Specifically, the project will: 1) identify and analyze climate information needs, provide support for climate information production, synthesis, and use; 2) build the capacities and knowledge of stakeholders (government agencies, research institutions, extension agents and contact farmers) to collect and utilize high quality, demand-driven climate information for adaptation planning and decisionmaking; and 3) facilitate the mainstreaming of climate change issues in regional policy dialogue aimed at raising awareness on climate change issues to strengthen understanding, use and mastery of climate information.

The project has three main components: (i) Climate information synthesis in selected countries; (ii) Capacity Enhancement and Climate Information Dissemination; (iii) Project management and administration. At the end of the two-year period (2017-2019), the project is expected to: (i) improve national and regional level data collection systems and synthesis for better deployment in decision making and practice; (ii) improve capacity of policymakers, scientists, extension agents and farmers to use climate information and technology tools for adaptation planning and decision making; and (iii) strengthen information exchange and improve networking among stakeholders working on climate change adaptation in selected countries.

1.2 Welcome Remarks by the Chair



The event was chaired by the Board Chair of the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) **Mr Chuma Ikenze**, who welcomed participants to the project launch. He expressed delight at the participation and interest in the project. He noted that the launch of this project has come at an opportune time when the world is experiencing massive climate and weather-related phenomena such as floods, droughts and hurricanes, sending a clear message about the critical role of climate information for planning and decision-making. He reiterated that recent major disasters and catastrophic damage caused by hurricanes in parts of the United States and the Caribbean Islands, landslides in Sierra Leone and DR Congo, and desertification in some parts of Africa should be enough to silence deniers of climate change and its impact. He intimated that for people who have suffered the adverse effects of climate-related disaster, climate change is not a topic for debate but a real threat to humanity's existence.

He highlighted that governments must sensibly formulate policies that protect the environment by reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as prepare their citizens to cope with the impact of climate change. Mr Chuma argued that the generation, interpretation and use of climate information by governments and other stakeholders will be critical to decision-making and the formulation of robust and reliable policy for climate change adaptation and mitigation in African countries.

He strongly urged the project implementing team to produce reports that would universally appeal to the understanding of the different stakeholders at the various levels, including the layman. In his concluding remarks, he expressed gratitude to the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the financial support for the implementation of the project and encouraged other stakeholders to come on board and assist the project team through partnerships or funding support in order to achieve the goals of the project.

1.3 Welcome Remarks by Partners



In his remark, **Dr Nicholas Ozor**, the Executive Director of ATPS welcomed all participants to the project launch. He was full of praise and gratitude to the participants, highlighting the richness in diverse stakeholder categories who honoured the invitation to attend the launch. He noted that the preparation for this project which started in 2014 has now become a reality. He expressed his appreciation for all the project implementing partners for their resilience and cooperation during the entire process of preparation and commencement of project implementation.

Dr Ozor described the ATPS as a trans-disciplinary network of researchers, policymakers, private sector actors and the civil society that promote the generation, dissemination, use and mastery of science, technology and innovation (STI) for African development, environmental sustainability and global inclusion. He stated that the ATPS works with like-minded institutions to provide platforms for

collaborative and innovative policy research and knowledge production to address critical challenges confronting African countries. He mentioned that Climate Change research and development has been a longstanding program priority of the ATPS. In the Phase VIII Strategic Plan, the ATPS has identified Climate Change and Environment as one of the key priority areas over the next 5 years. He expressed great optimism about the capacity of the project implementation team to deliver valuable outputs that will have a positive impact on different beneficiaries at different levels. He expressed gratitude to the AfDB for financially supporting the project and assured the Bank of high accountability of the grant towards the implementation of the project.



Ms Stacey Noel from Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) commended the project implementing partners for their efforts and persistence throughout this period of discussion and deliberations until the approval of the project. She was excited and looking forward to the discussions that would unfold during the launch and how they would positively shape the implementation of the project.

Ms Noel highlighted that the mission of SEI Africa is to support close collaboration with African organizations and networks on key environmental and development issues. The SEI Africa Centre focuses on four key programme areas namely: Energy and Climate Change, Health and Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainable Urbanization. As an implementing partner for this project, Ms Noel was looking forward to a fruitful collaboration with the other partners for the successful implementation of the project.



Ms Pauline Ogola represented the Regional Centre for Mapping Resource for Development (RCMRD). She extended greetings from the Director General of the RCMRD to all the participants and partners at the launch. She congratulated the Project Implementation Team for working hard to bring the project towards implementation. She noted that as an implementing partner, the RCMRD will bring on board its massive experience in the generation and application of climate information, agriculture and capacity building in member states. On that note, the RCMRD is committed to working with the other implementing partners so as to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of quality outputs.



Mr Jasper Mwesigwa represented IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC). He congratulated the project team for the endurance and tenacity in making the project a reality. He recalled the how the idea emerged to put up a solid team from the six institutions to respond adequately to the ClimDev call by tapping into the vast experience and capabilities of all the institutions. He assured the project team of the commitment and support of ICPAC to ensure the smooth implementation and achievement of the project goals and objectives. He added a note of advice to the team to observe and be guided by three key elements - quality, timeliness and value – in order to succeed in this project.



Representing AGRHYMET Regional Centre (ARC), **Mr Seydou Tinni Halidou** expressed his delight in joining the rest of the project team for the launch and to get a deeper understanding of the role and activities of the ARC in this project. He reiterated that as an interstate public institution, the mission of the ARC is to contribute towards achieving food security and increased agricultural production in member States and the improvement natural resources management in the Sahelian region. With their rich experience, Mr Halidou assured the project implementation team of the commitment and support of ARC to work with other partners to deliver effectively in order to achieve the goals of this project.



Mr Louis Blanc Traore from the OSS congratulated the project team for their determination and hard work. He introduced the OSS as an international organization that operates as a platform for North-South-South partnerships on the environment and sustainable development of Africa's Sahel-Saharan region. He noted that the OSS brings to this project over two decades of working experience in the areas of sustainable natural resource management, climate change adaptation, green economy, and long-term environmental monitoring, among others areas. He reiterated the enthusiasm of OSS to be part of this great consortium and assured the project team about the readiness and commitment of OSS to deliver.

1.4 Expectation of Participants

Expectations of participants at the beginning of the project launch varied given the diverse background of the stakeholders. The participants expected to:

- Learn more about the project, the activities, the implementation approach and the project partners;
- Share their experiences and provide valuable inputs to the project in order to lessen the duplication of efforts,
- Provoke thoughts and ask important questions about the project, the grant donor and the opportunities for collaboration towards the implementation of the project;
- Understand how the project outputs and outcomes would directly benefit the different categories of stakeholders and inform decision-making at various levels;
- Understand how the successful implementation and achievement of the project goal and objectives would enhance climate change adaptation in the target countries;
- Know more about the activities of ATPS and explore partnership possibilities for program/ project development on climate change and environment.
- Know the contribution of participants in terms of value addition to project;
- Networking continentally on climate information issues to generate discussions and exchange of experiences.

1.5 Opening Remarks from African Development Bank (AfDB)



Mr Onesmus Maina, Senior Agricultural Economist at the African Development Bank (AfDB) made opening remarks on behalf of Dr Justus Joseph Kabyemere who is the Coordinator of the Clim-Dev Special Fund (CDSF). He pointed out that CDSF which is funding this project is a joint initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), AfDB, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) with a goal to overcome the lack of necessary climate information, analysis and options required by policy and decision-makers at all levels. The Fund seeks to engage climate information providers in order to bridge the disconnection between climate services and development priorities and establish a continuous flow of information between providers and users of climate information in Africa.

According to Mr Maina, the AfDB as an administrator for the CDSF is keen on working with organizations with innovative projects that can address the climate information gap and mainstream climate information into development planning and policies in African countries. He highlighted the significant contribution of the Bank over the past decade towards the development of regional and national programs, strategies and institutions for generating robust climate information and providing services towards climate resilience and less carbon-intensive economies. Some of these programs, strategies and institutions already in place include; the Climate Research for Development (CR4D) initiative, the Climate Change and Development Africa (CCDA) annual conference, the establishment of the African Climate Technology and Finance Centre and Network (ACTFCN), African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) and the Clim-Dev Special Fund

He mentioned that the Bank is contributing around 90% of the budget while the ATPS and partners are contributing the remaining amount. He advised the ATPS and partners to have a dedicated project implementation unit with subject matter specialists and a well-defined and detailed work plan, which will facilitate the smooth implementation and achievement of project outputs and outcomes. Mr Maina assured the stakeholders present at the project launch about the commitment of the Bank to work with strategic partners to channel investments into climate service delivery in African countries. He reiterated that the Bank will continue to develop programs through the tripartite partnerships and African and non-African institutions that specialize in climate development to help to strengthen the understanding, use and mastery of climate information for decision and to mainstream climate change issues in regional policy dialogue. He expressed optimism that the findings from the project will inform policy recommendations, and provide African stakeholders with adequate capacities needed to improve climate change adaptation and resilience at institutional, national and regional level.

2.0 Keynote presentation: Climate information needs for policy and practice



Prof. Shem Wandiga from the Institute of Climate Change Adaptation, University of Nairobi made a keynote presentation on Climate information needs for policy and practice. He noted that the lack of climate information continues to hinder the development of climate-informed decision-making and development policies. He also observed that the current approach to the generation of climate information has not emphasized on the social data that bring meaning to climate information. For instance, how do societies relate climate information to the number of displaced or killed person as a result of climate events, such as flood or drought? According to Prof. Wandiga, a major challenge confronting African countries is the lack of long-term historical weather data (up to 30 years) to make accurate predictions of weather patterns. The lack of climate data has limited African countries from establishing a strong linkage between climate and development.

Using the case studies of Turkana and Samburu in Kenya, Prof. Wandiga highlighted the critical challenges of scanty climate and demographic data limiting the capacity of Kenyan government to make a robust case for climate change and societal crisis such as food insecurity, water scarcity; climate change impact and social assets; climate change impact and conflicts, among other things. He also raised the lack of data synchronization among institutions, giving the example of the Kenya Meteorological Services (KMS) and the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) where climate data does not synchronize with food availability data, and data on disaster damages, among others. He further reiterated the importance of data synchronization among institutions so as to enhance climate information flow, mainstream climate issues in development planning and formulate climate-informed policy.

Questions and Discussions

The presentation stimulated some interesting but relevant questions from the participants, including:

- The relationship between the current hurricanes Irma and Harvey and climate change.
- What measures are currently being put in place to increase weather stations in Kenya?
- When will private sector be allowed to openly acquire weather stations given that the Kenya Meteorological Depart is still the only public institutions in charge of all weather stations in Kenya?
- How are other institutions such as universities and other research institutions interested in meteorological data working to address the low number of weather stations in Kenya?

In response to the first question, a climate expert in the audience indicated that climate scientists usually would not directly attribute the occurring hurricanes to climate change and global warming. However, there is increasing confidence among scientists and the amount of climate data to link these extreme weather events such as hurricane to climate change. While hotter oceans, rising sea levels and other factors are not solely responsible for extreme weather events, it has become more unequivocal that warming climate is contributing to the increasing intensity and frequency of the storms.

In response to measures to increase weather stations, Prof. Wandiga indicated that there are several organizations such as the World Bank, AfDB, among others who are investing in the establishment of weather stations, acquisition of climate data and promoting agricultural insurance for farmers who lose

their crops as a result of extreme weather events. For private sector engagement in the acquisition of weather stations, key issues around the risk of data manipulation and data profiteering continue to embolden the unwillingness of the KMS to allow private sector acquisition of weather stations. Nonetheless, the world is currently witnessing the emergence of technologies that allow users to readily access climate data derived from climate apps using mobile phones.

3.0 Project Overview: Bridging climate information gaps to strengthen capacities for climate-informed decision-making



Mr Ernest Acheampong, ATPS Senior Researcher who also doubles up as the Project Manager of this project presented an overview of the project detailing the project goal, objectives, activities, outputs, outcomes, impacts, and the role of implementing partners. In his introduction, Mr Acheampong highlighted the growing relevance of climate information in developing societies noting that several assessments conducted over the years have all concluding that Africa has the lowest density and quality of climate reporting stations in the world. According to him, African institutions, development practitioners and climate service providers have been unsuccessful in effectively managing climate risks and linkage of climate change data to development. This he observed could be attributed to the lack of appropriate and reliable climate-information system in African countries, which hampers adaptation and mitigation planning.

The project aims to strengthen the capacities of relevant stakeholders in five countries, namely Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria and Tunisia so as to deepen their understanding and to deploy appropriate climate information and best practices to inform decision-making. Specifically, the project will identify and analyze climate information needs synthesis and use; build the capacity of stakeholders to utilize high quality, demand-driven climate information for adaptation planning and decision-making; and facilitate the mainstreaming of climate change issues in regional policy dialogue aimed at strengthening the understanding, use and mastery of climate information. The project is expected to run for two years.

The project is made up of three components, each with multiple activities:

	Components	Activities
1.	Climate Information synthesis in selected countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk studies on identification and analysis of climate information and needs • Mining of climate data and information based on identified needs • Data collection, synthesis and analysis of high-quality climate information • Development and management of the Interactive Collaborative Environment (ICE) menus/platforms
2.	Capacity enhancement and climate information dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of training modules for climate scientists and policymakers • Organize 3-day Regional climate change dialogue and training workshop for policymakers and scientists • Management of ICE infrastructure for climate information knowledge exchange and sharing • LandInfo training workshops for agricultural extension agents and contact farmers • Development of a robust climate adaptation toolkit
3.	Project management and administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Steering Committee Meetings • Procurement and financial transactions for project implementation • Monitoring and evaluation • Reporting

The specific activities under each component are provided below:

Activities	Specifics
Component One	
Desk studies on identification and analysis of climate information and needs	Assessment areas include: Climate information systems (CIS); foresight studies and research priority setting in climate science and policymaking; climate policy analysis and policymaking; effective climate science communication; and design and management of climate partnerships and networks.
Mining of climate data and information based on identified needs	Data produced from: Climate information Projects funded by the ClimDev Special Fund (CDSF); regional and national meteorological and climatological Centers; World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme (WCDMP)
Data collection, synthesis and analysis of high-quality climate information	Climate data acquired through Earth Observation technologies including Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology and LandInfo mobile technology
Development of the Interactive Collaborative Environment (ICE) menus/platforms	A web repository of information of climate change. Comprises of a social media platform, a wiki (knowledge repository), a virtual marketplace and enhanced search functionality on information on climate action plans, data, innovations, policies and different projects A One-stop Shop for Climate Information and Knowledge
Component Two	
Development of training modules for climate scientists and policymakers	Six training modules: 1. Analysis of Climate Information Systems 2. Climate Policy Analysis and Policymaking 3. Foresight Studies and Research Priority Setting in Climate Science and Policymaking 4. Effective Climate Science Communication 5. Mapping of Climate Funding and Mechanisms 6. Design and Management of Climate Partnerships and Networks
3-day Regional climate change dialogue and training workshop for policymakers and scientists	Provision of skills and tools for analyses of climate information and policy. Training modules developed by the Project
LandInfo Technology training workshops for extension agents and contact farmers	The LandInfo app is a community-driven app that enables users to instantaneously access climatic and soil information and interpret them in the context of local conditions and values. With knowledge of annual average rainfall and temperature, aridity index, and the growing season length among other variables provided by the LandInfo, farmers can plan effectively to avoid losses due to climate variability
Management of ICE infrastructure	ICE social media platform-exchange ideas and experiences on climate change, create networks and engage stakeholders Knowledge repository-promotes file sharing on projects, programmes, adaptation plans and policies on climate change Virtual market-connect stakeholders, experts and donors

Development of a robust climate adaptation toolkit	Two pilot case studies in Kenya and Nigeria. Use information from the case studies to develop a robust adaptation toolkit to support adaptation planning and policymaking.
Component Three	
Project Launch	Reporting from the Project launch and steering committee meetings
Project Steering Committee Meetings	Establishment of the Project implementation team with clear responsibilities
Procurement and financial transactions for project implementation	Framework for Project implementation, procurement and disbursement
Monitoring and evaluation	Reporting

3.1 Expected outcomes and outputs

According to Mr Acheampong, the project is expected to improve the capacities of stakeholders and institutions to deploy appropriate climate information and best practices for effective climate-proof policy making and practices. He noted that the generation and application of climate information will contribute significantly to the improvement in national and regional level climate information systems. The improvement in national and regional level climate information systems strengthened information exchange and networking among stakeholders working on climate change while providing vital information for long-term adaptation planning and development. He emphasized that the project was designed to benefit various categories of stakeholders, including government agencies and institutions, researchers and experts, policymakers and development planners, contact farmers and extension agents and Non-governmental organizations. For key outputs, Mr Acheampong stated that the project is expected to produce technical reports, training modules, Web-based Interactive Collaborative Environment (ICE) platform for climate information knowledge sharing and dissemination; climate adaptation toolkit, training manuals, journal publications and policy briefs.

4.0 Deploying Climate Information for Resilience Building and Agricultural Productivity using the LandInfo Mobile App



Dr Nicholas Ozor's presentation focused on the use of an innovative technology, LandInfo app to generate climate information to inform decision-making on sustainable land management and climate resilience. According to Dr Ozor, the LandInfo app is a product of the Land Potential Knowledge System (LandPKS) project which was developed in collaboration with the United States Department of Agricultural Service (USDA-ARS) and other partners and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Land Potential Knowledge System (LandPKS) is a suite of integrated, modular apps connected to cloud-based analytics and user-accessible cloud storage that allows users to access, share and interpret global knowledge and information relevant to the unique potential of each piece of land.

Dr Ozor stated that two mobile apps, LandInfo and LandCover apps have been developed so far under the LandPKS, which can be downloaded freely on Google Play and iOS. Currently, the ATPS is focused on outscaling the LandInfo app, which has been successfully tested in Kenya and Namibia. Several training workshops have been organized to support farmers and extension agents to use the LandInfo app in generating soil and climate information to inform decision-making. Dr Ozor observed that through these training workshops extension agents and farmers have deepened their knowledge about the soil biophysical characteristics, including soil water content, soil types; have access to climate data including annual average rainfall and temperature patterns, among others and are able to plan their farming enterprises adequately to avoid losses due to climate variability and hence improve agricultural productivity and climate change resilience. Dr Ozor stated that in April 2016, the LandInfo app received the prestigious Climate Information Prize (**Wazo Prize**) as an innovative tool for collecting climate information to assist farm decision-making in order to improve agricultural productivity and climate resilience.

Dr Ozor enumerated some key benefits of the use of the LandInfo app, including;

- Generating accurate, robust and timely information and knowledge of land potential.
- Supporting effective decision- making on agricultural development and land management strategies
- Connecting producers with each other; directly supporting land management decisions by farmers, ranchers and pastoralists'.
- Improving cooperation among extension and communities.
- Connecting people living in areas of similar land types and similar land potential so that sustainable land management practices are shared

In his concluding remarks, Dr Ozor stated that the LandInfo app is gender-friendly in its use and information provided by the app can be used for climate change adaptation and mitigation planning. He also highlighted the potential role of the LandInfo in contributing to increasing agricultural yield the farmers; supporting decision-making by development agencies and policymakers.

Questions and Discussions

The two presentations were followed by a session on questions, comments from the participants and responses from the presenters. The first question raised had to do with the mechanism used by the LandInfo app to store up-to-date information after a long period of time. In response, Mr Acheampong stated that the *LandInfo* app is connected to a cloud storage that allows data to be stored in the cloud permanently. Data from LandInfo is accessible through a web portal which is secured but accessible to all users with passwords and user identification. Mr Acheampong also mentioned that the Interactive Collaborative Environment (ICE) is a long-term platform for climate information storage with a dedicated IT person who will monitor and update the platform regularly. The next question was about the capacity of the LandInfo to address pest infestation on the farm. Mr Acheampong indicated that the *LandInfo* app was not designed for that particular purpose. However, as a long-term project the team will be working towards addressing the specific agricultural need, it is a welcoming idea that the project would look at.

The third question on whether the *LandInfo* app links farmers to the extension officers. Responding the question, Mr Acheampong emphasized that the app does not directly link farmers to extension officers. Rather, the ATPS team trains farmers together with extension agents on the use of the LandInfo app. By forging a collaborative engagement between the farmers and extension agents, the team hopes to create a multiplier effect where both trained farmers and extension agents are expected to transfer the knowledge acquired to other farmers. He added that such engagements provide valuable feedbacks that contribute to improvement and update of the *LandInfo* app.

The fourth question on whether the LandInfo app can inform farmers on the appropriate areas to get seeds which adapt to different soils. In response, Dr Acheampong stated that the app does not link farmers with the appropriate seeds, rather, a series of soils texture analysis can help *LandInfo* users know the soil type as the most suitable crops to grow. The next question had to deal with how research uptake of the project will be connected to development and to the end users at the community level and how the team will bridge communication gaps between researchers and users. According to Mr Acheampong, information will be disseminated through physical media, website, project components, websites and social media amongst others. The last question was about the reliability of the LandInfo app and its adoption by farmers. On this, Mr Acheampong emphasized that the app has passed the reliability test after about two years of successfully testing the app in Namibia and Kenya.

On the development of a toolkit, one suggestion given by a participant was on the need to explore all available adaptation toolkits developed by other organizations, which can be used to support the development of a more robust toolkit. Mr Acheampong praised the suggestion and indicated that one of the critical aspects of the project is to as much as possible bring together all existing climate data and information and toolkits developed by other institutions to design a comprehensive adaptation toolkit that addresses adaptation issues in a more holistic way.

5.0 Official Launch of the Project

Following the introduction of the project to the participants, the project was officially launched by Mr Onesmus Maina from the AfDB. He encouraged other stakeholders to explore ways of partnering with the project team to ensure the successful implementation of the project. He reiterated that the AfDB through the Clim-Dev Special Fund will continue to support the generation of knowledge and information on climate issues to support policy and development planning in African countries.



Mr Onesmus Maina (AfDB), addressing stakeholders during the official launch at the Hilton Hotel, Nairobi.

Closing remarks

Dr Acheampong on behalf of the project partners expressed appreciation to all the participants who graced the event and contributed towards a successful launch. He solicited for continued support from the different stakeholders during the implementation of the project. On that note, he officially closed the project launching event.

AFTERNOON SESSION

6.0 Capacity Building for Project Implementation

A key component of this project is management and administration. In order to ensure the smooth and successful implementation of projects, the AfDB took project grantees through key processes and procedures that are critical to the implementation of the project. These process and procedures include the Bank's procurement policy, project financial management, disbursement process and monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Representatives from the AfDB took the project implementing partners through the following presentations.

6.1 The Bank's Disbursements Procedure



The presentation by Mr Sam Sakwa, a Financial Management Specialist at the AfDB aimed at familiarizing project partners with the disbursement rules and procedures of the AfDB to ensure an efficient disbursement process, timely release of funds for effective and efficient project implementation.

Guiding Principles of Grant Administration

Mr Sakwa noted that the AfDB undertakes grant administration to ensure that grant proceeds are used for its intended purpose, resources are disbursed in a timely manner and payments from grant account covering only expenses incurred.

Procedure of Precedent to First Disbursement

He explained that the disbursement for this project will be made through the use of a special account which had already been opened. A protocol of agreement was signed on 16th June 2017 between the ATPS and the AfDB therefore, all expenses incurred there-of on project activities were eligible for payment. However, he noted that any disbursement could only be made if applications are submitted to the bank when the grant is declared effective. The disbursement letter provides specific guidelines applicable to the project.

Conditions of use for the Special Account

Mr Sakwa emphasized that the use of the special account comes with conditions that must be fulfilled. Some of the conditions include:-

- There must be a financial management assessment; this was done in December 2016 at the ATPS Secretariat office.
- There must be an annual budget/ work program. This had already been approved by the bank.
- There will be an annual independent audit.
- The advances which will be provided will be based on project needs and planned expenditures.
- All payments from the special account must follow all the bank procedures and policies.
- The last advance will be made not later than 6 months before the project ends.
- All the funds that will be advanced must be justified or reimbursed to the bank within three months before the project ends.

Circumstances that may cause delay in Disbursements

Mr Sakwa advised project partners to follow the AfDB procedures and ensure that they work within the deadlines agreed upon in the work plan. He noted that the AfDB will ensure a smooth implementation of the project. He alerted project implementing partners of the key issues that may delay disbursements and may negatively affect the implementation of the project. Some of these issues include:-

- If the application is not signed by an authorized signatory or signatories.
- If there is non-compliance with the procurement procedures.
- If applications are submitted to the incorrect unit at the bank.
- If photocopies or scanned disbursements application forms are submitted instead of original copies.
- If there are inconsistent payment instructions.
- If the supporting documents or claims are not consistent with contract terms.
- If there are insufficient funds in a category or contract.
- If the expenditure is not consistent with the legal/grant agreement.
- If audited financial statements are not submitted to the Bank.

Refunds to the Bank

Mr Sakwa informed the project partners the AfDB would demand refund of the disbursed grant in the event of the following:

- ❖ Advances to the special accounts have not been justified within a reasonable time.
- ❖ Unutilized funds in the special account are no longer needed for the project implementation.
- ❖ The expenses are deemed non-eligible for financing.
- ❖ If there is a declaration of mis-procurement when payments have already been made against the mis-procured contract.

6.2 Project Financial Management

Mr Sakwa's presentation on project financial management provided a comprehensive view of the AfDB's Financial Management (FM) requirements for the implementation of the project as well as to clarify the FM responsibilities of the collaborating partners. He further noted that the funds should only be used for its intended purpose and properly managed. Some of the activities under financial management include planning and budgeting, accounting and record keeping, internal controls, funds disbursement and, financial reporting and auditing arrangements.

Salient Features that the Project Team need to Implement

Mr Sakwa highlighted certain salient features that the project team needs to implement in order to establish a good financial system. Such salient features include:-

- The project financial management should be in accordance with Financial and Accounting Policy and Procedures manual of the ATPS as well as the AfDB's Rules and Guidelines.
- Financial reporting should be submitted as part of the Semi-annually and not later than 45 days after the end of half year according to the Grant Agreement.

- Financial statements should be prepared within 3 months following year-end and it should be in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
- An External audit should be done by an appointed independent external auditor.
- The audit should be done in accordance with Audit Terms of Reference approved by the AfDB. A copy should be shared and submitted within 6 months following year-end.

Pitfalls that the Project Team need to Avoid

Mr Sakwa advised the project team to avoid practices that may interfere with the smooth implementation of the project, including:

- Failure to apply Bank rules and procedures.
- Failure to account for project funds (supporting documentation).
- Poor record keeping.
- Failure to prepare financial reports.
- Audit-related issues.
- Late submission of audit reports.
- Rejection of the audit reports by the Bank due to none compliance with the Guidelines (financial and audit)

Requirements of the Project Implementation Unit

In his concluding remarks, Mr Sakwa hinted that for the successful implementation of this project, the project's partners must observe the following:

- Operate as a team.
- Understand the Project- read the Project Appraisal Report (PAR), Grant Protocol of Agreement and Bank rules.
- Establish and maintain proper accounting and internal control systems throughout the project life.
- Consult the Bank (through the Task Manager) in case they need clarifications or face some challenges.
- Understand the audit Terms of Reference (TOR).
- Provide timely feedback on audit reports

6.3 Banks Procurement Policy



Mr Patrick Owouri, a Senior Procurement Officer at the AfDB presented the Bank’s procurement policy. He noted that the Bank has a new procurement policy which was approved in 2015. The overarching principle of the new policy is to achieve value for money. Mr Owouri further noted that the new procurement policy is fit for purpose risk-based approach and takes into account country procurement systems for specific transactions.

Project Procurement Arrangements and Project Procurement Plans

Mr Owouri informed project partners of the key requirements that must be adhered to during procurement for the project’s assets. These requirements are:-

- a) Procurement shall be carried out through the Bank’s Project Management Policies, utilizing available Bank Standard Solicitation Documents.
- b) In situations, where the project partners are required to seek services of a consultant then the selection will be done through the following procedure (Shopping Method):-
 - Procurement shall be done based on comparing price quotations from several suppliers.
 - A minimum of three quotations should be evaluated so as to assure competitive prices.
 - The Request for Quotations (RFQs) shall indicate the description and quantity of the goods, delivery (or completion) of time and place.
 - Quotations can be submitted by letter, facsimile or by electronic means.
 - The evaluation of quotations shall follow the same principles as of open bidding.

6.4 Monitoring, Evaluation (M&E) and Reporting



Mr Onesmus Maina’s presentation provided key elements that would facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of the project. He highlighted the importance of monitoring, evaluation and reporting in helping the smooth project implementation as well as the achievement of the project goals.

Supervision, M&E Reporting

Mr Maina presented the guidelines which will guide the supervision and monitoring and evaluation process. These guidelines include:-

- The project will be supervised at least twice a year, or as it may be required based on its performance.
- The project will be monitored through regular Quarterly Progress Reports including; progress in activity implementation, financial and procurement management.
- The project M&E will be based on the measurable performance indicators in each component as outlined in the results-based project logical framework and the project implementation work plan.

- The project M&E specialist will be responsible for monitoring all aspects of project implementation and will report through monthly performance evaluations, quarterly reports and a mid-term review (MTR) report and annual progress reports.

Questions and Discussions

The first question focused on the delay in the delivery of project outputs by partners and how this can be addressed. In responding to this question, Mr Maina emphasized on the role of the Lead Partner who also bears the fiduciary responsibility of the project. He indicated that the grant from the AfDB is given in bits as a precautionary measure and therefore such an approach should be applied to minimize risks. The second question was on the chain of financial reporting. Mr Sakwa responded that the ATPS is regarded as the Lead Partner and therefore all financial reporting from project partners should be forwarded to the ATPS.

The final question had to do with the clarification on how different organizations will prepare their financial statements since each organization may have its own different style. Mr Sakwa pointed out that organizations may have different regulation rules in preparing their financial statements however, the bottom line is that for the approval of expenditures, each partner should use the structures laid out in their organization and forward it to the lead partner ATPS. The difference may be negligible. He lastly urged the project team to support their project account person by providing the relevant documents for all expenditure.

Annexes

Annex 1: Programme for the Project launch

Day One: 11 September 2017		
08:30- 9:00	Registration of Participants	
Opening session	Chair: Mr Chuma Ikenze, Chair, ATPS Board	
09:00- 09:30	WELCOME REMARKS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks by Host, ATPS • Remarks by Project partners • Remarks by Representative of AfDB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nicholas Ozor, Executive Director, ATPS • SEI, RCMRD, ICPAC, ARC, OSS, AfDB • Mr. Onesmus Maina - Senior Agricultural Economist
09:30-10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote 1: Climate Information Needs for Policy and Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Shem Wandiga, Institute of Climate Change Adaptation, University of Nairobi
10:00- 10:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote 2: Mainstreaming Climate Change issues in National Policy Dialogues: Case of Kenya 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Pacifica Ogola, Director, Climate Change Programmes Coordination, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya
10:30- 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 	
11:00- 11:30	Photo/ Health Break	
11:30- 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Overview “Bridging Climate Information Gaps to Strengthen Capacities for Climate Informed Decision-Making” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ernest Acheampong, Senior Research Officer, ATPS
12:00- 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploying Climate Information for resilience building using the LandInfo Mobile App 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Nicholas Ozor, Executive Director, ATPS
12:30- 12:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 	
12:50- 13:00	Official Launching of the Project	
13:00- 14:00	Lunch	
Afternoon (Closed)	Chair: Dr Justus Joseph Kabyemera, Coordinator, Clim-Dev Special Fund (CDSF)	
13:30- 14:00	Roles of Project Partners	ATPS, SEI, RCMRD, ICPAC, ARC, OSS
14:00- 16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank’s Procurement Policy • Project Financial Management • Disbursements • Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting • Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick Owuori, Senior Procurement Officer • David Mutuku, Principal Financial Management Officer • Kalekye Mwau- Disbursements Officer • Onesmus Maina- Senior Agricultural Economist
16:00- 16:30	Health Break	
16:30	Adjourn	

Rapporteurs: Alfred Nyambane and Sharon Anyango, ATPS

Annex 2: List of Delegates that attended the Project Launch



PROJECT LAUNCH

“Bridging Climate Information Gaps to Strengthen Capacities for Climate Informed Decision-Making”

Hilton Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

11 September 2017

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11 September 2017

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11 September 2017

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PROJECT LAUNCH

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11 September 2017

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