



## A SHORT INTRODUCTION

*by coordinator, Roberta Boscolo (WMO)*

It is with great excitement that I introduce this first issue of the Newsletter of FOCUS-Africa. By launching its implementation phase on 1st September 2020, FOCUS-Africa is now seven months old however, as you will find out in this newsletter, it has already made some important steps forward, despite the current health crisis. In these initial months, the project workplan designed for a COVID-free world, had to be adjusted to take the current limitations in travelling and gathering into consideration. Hence, both the kick-off meeting and the first stakeholder workshop were held in virtual mode.



To mark the beginning of FOCUS-Africa implementation, the project consortium held a kick-off meeting on the 16-17 September 2020. The meeting featured the EC project officer, Anna-Natasa Asik, the two coordinators of the H2020 sister projects: [CONFER](#) and [DOWN2EARTH](#). This event was the first occasion to gather the whole consortium and, despite being virtual, it foreshadowed set a good start for the project

[Read more.](#)



## SAVE THE DATE

The next stakeholder workshop will also be virtual in September 2021, focusing on the three case studies in Tanzania: food security, energy and infrastructure.

Updates coming soon

## Project overview

*Our project at a glance*

Our mission is to create dedicated climate services for the SADC region. We have identified eight case studies in the energy, food security, water and infrastructure sectors of the SADC region – to provide a range of examples where climate service delivery can be successfully implemented.

# CASE STUDY - FOOD SECURITY

## SOUTH AFRICA

### CONTEXT

Climate variability in South Africa can cause multi-year droughts resulting in severe losses for farmers and investors.



Hot conditions and sporadic rain in 3 of the past 5 years have significantly impacted crop production.



The region is projected to experience large impacts in the 21st century under both high and low mitigation efforts.



The Land Bank finances commercial farmers and agribusiness, and also helps new entrants fund their operations.



Anticipating climate variability and extremes is key to the long-term success of agricultural investments.



Obtaining climate risk information is essential to adjusting credit models to compensate for potential climate change impacts.



There is a special interest in the North West Province's western maize production, which is important for food security.



### EXPECTED RESULTS

- 1 Improved climate information for future crop and livestock production assessments.
- 2 Assessment of impact of climate change on crop and livestock production.
- 3 Identification of adaptation measures and opportunities potentially shaping policy.
- 4 Agricultural credit model adjusted to reflect climate change risks.
- 5 More informed financial and lending decisions and advice given to farmers.

### THE TEAM



RESEARCH	SERVICE PROVIDER	END USER



**FOCUS-AFRICA**

The FOCUS-AFRICA project received funding from the Horizon 2020 Programme under grant agreement No 849575.

### TOOLS & APPROACH

These tools and data will first be applied for a historical period to evaluate their representation of climate and crop yields in the region.



OBSERVED WEATHER DATA



DOWNSCALED CLIMATE SIMULATIONS



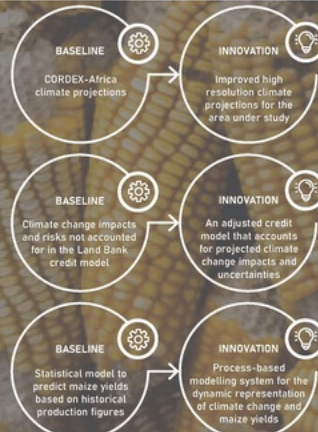
STOCHASTIC WEATHER SIMULATIONS



CROP SIMULATION MODEL

Based on the evaluation, appropriate methods will be selected to represent future climate and simulate crop yields, calculate livestock stress indices and identify adaptation measures and opportunities. In collaboration with the Land Bank, credit models will be adjusted to take into account potential climate change impacts. Farmers will be consulted to take into account their needs and considerations.

### CLIMATE SERVICES



[More on the case studies](#)

## The project so far

*Project highlights, updates and latest news*

### FOCUS-Africa and the WMO global effort for the operationalisation of climate services

*"...FOCUS-Africa is an innovative example of an approach to link together all the CSIS components and support the full climate services value chain..."*



[Read more.](#)



### Resources from our first EU FOCUS-Africa External Stakeholder Workshop now available!

We successfully organised our first External Stakeholder Workshop, an online event, on the 9th December 2020. Our special thanks to all FOCUS-Africa partners, participants and our speakers:

[Access the resources](#)

### Say hello to our sister-projects - CONFER & DOWN2EARTH

In the spirit of identifying areas of collaboration and creating synergies with other initiatives as encouraged by the European Commission, we introduce you to CONFER and DOWN2EARTH.



[Read more.](#)



X



Join the campaign:  
**#FOCUSAfricaEarthDay**



@FocusAFRICA\_EU

[www.focus-africaproject.eu](http://www.focus-africaproject.eu)



Focus-Africa Project

### Earth Day Campaign

For Earth Day we shared the resources developed for the #FOCUSAfricaEarthDay campaign: infographics and videos.

[Visit the dedicated webpage](#)

## Recent updates

This project has received funding from the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under grant agreement 101019755. The content of this presentation reflects only the author's view. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.





**1.**

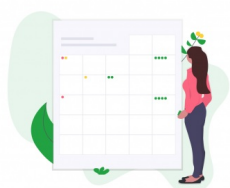
[Discover CONFER Project video presentation](#)

**2.**

[Lessons from Africa on climate change adaptation](#)

**3.**

[New open access book on Climate Risk in Africa](#)



### Related events

- SAVE THE DATES, September 2021, FOCUS-Africa workshops. [More information soon.](#)
- [Symposium "Adapting Africa to a Changing Climate" Wed, 19 May 2021, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm online](#)
- [The Regional Climate Weeks 2021 Virtual Thematic Sessions for the Africa Region will take place from 15-18 June 2021](#)

*Due to protective measures against COVID-19, some events have been reprogrammed to take place online.*

## Project Partners



[Get to know our project partners](#)



**Did you enjoy this newsletter?**  
Great! Forward it to your network!



**Were you forwarded this newsletter?**  
Please, sign up [HERE!](#)



The FOCUS-Africa project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 869575.

[Unsubscribe here](#)