



FOCUS-Africa Newsletter

Issue 2 - May 2022



Project overview

2021 Achievements at a glance, Roberta Boscolo, WMO

This second issue of FOCUS-Africa Newsletter coincides with the first mid-term review of the project. Yes, we already reached 18+ months of implementation while employing our creativity, innovation and efforts in order to minimize the impacts of COVID in our plan of actions so far.

Since the Newsletter's first issue, we had a full year of virtual events in line with the execution of our Communication and Dissemination Plan, including the 2nd Stakeholders workshop in September 2021 preceded by the 1st Consortium General Assembly and the 2nd Advisory Board Meeting. It is worth mentioning that in between COVID's successive waves, our team for the Case Study on Food Security in Mozambique met in October 2021 for the first time in person in Maputo. Together with members of the Work Package 6 (impact team), the group carried out a field trip to the villages in the northern part of the country to meet with the smallholder farmers. This mission was successful, enabling a better understanding of the socio-economic context, needs and practices of smallholder farmers as well as assessing the local expertise, capacity, and systems to foster the legacy of the project outcomes.

Such a positive outcome inspired the project consortium to replicate this field trip to the other countries involved in the Case Studies, namely: Mauritius, Tanzania, Malawi and South Africa. Just before the publication of this Newsletter, the team involved in the Case Study on water resources in Mauritius successfully completed the mission in the Indian-Ocean Island, meeting with five institutions dealing with water and agriculture sectors and developing a plan for tailoring climate information to meet their needs. Field trips in Tanzania and Malawi are planned for May and July 2022.

[Read the full article](#)

SAVE THE DATE



FOCUS-Africa Week

Climate services for Food and Water Security



Stakeholders Workshop : 1-2 June 2022
(open to everybody)

Consortium Workshop : 30-31 May and 3 June 2022
(consortium partners)

The events will be held in Pretoria, South Africa.
Virtual participation will be also arranged for plenary sessions.
For more information and registration please visit our website.

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FOCUS-Africa 3rd Stakeholder Workshop in South Africa

The **third FOCUS-Africa Workshop** is planned to take place in a hybrid mode in Pretoria, South Africa 2022 to bring together the consortium members, close partners, advisory board (AB) members, European Union (EU) officers, and local stakeholders from South Africa and Mauritius to better understand the local needs and requirements for related case studies in food security and water.

The workshop will happen from 30 May to 3 June 2022, and will be composed of **Consortium only session** and **stakeholders sessions (open to everyone)** to cover both regional perspective for the whole project and particularly explore about local gaps, opportunities, and activities in South Africa and Mauritius.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Our team just returned from a mission in Mauritius!

Our team from the Case Study 8 on climate services for water resources in Mauritius, comprising staff from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), undertook a four-day mission to Mauritius to interact with users and stakeholders to better understand their climate services usage and needs.

[More about the Mission](#)

FOCUS-Africa developed a methodology for the socio-economic impact assessment of

climate services!

Our partners at [LGI](#), [BSC](#) and [WMO](#) have developed a new methodology to help assess the short and long term socio-economic impact of the climate services. The overall objective of this methodology is to help improve the design of climate service to ultimately maximise their impact.

[Read about the methodology](#)

MAIN UPDATES FROM 2021

Projects highlights and latest news

Our second Stakeholder workshop focusing on Tanzania took place in 2021

The second FOCUS-Africa workshop focused on Tanzania. The discussions explored the stakeholders needs, challenges and capacities in terms of climate services in Tanzania in three sectors namely, agriculture and food security, energy and infrastructure.

Recordings playlist is available on our [Youtube channel](#)

Resources from our first workshop on South Africa are also [available here](#)

[Access all presentation and recordings here](#)



FOCUS-Africa was presented at the European Meteorological Society Annual Meeting 2021

Our project coordinator Roberta Boscolo from WMO, together with her colleague Hamid Bastani, presented our FOCUS-Africa project at this event that gathered more than 500 participants from 43 countries!

[Access the presentation here](#)



Our team went to Mozambique for the first field visit!

The visit took place to assess the socio-economic context of the climate services to be developed by FOCUS-Africa in Mozambique, where our Case Study focuses on improving food security by developing climate services for smallholder farmers.

More about the field visit [here](#) and [here](#).

[Read about our Case study in Mozambique](#)

FOCUS-Africa takes part in the African Continental Climate Outlook Forum

Organised by the African Centre for Meteorological Applications and Development ([ACMAD](#)), the purpose of this Forum is to ensure improved capacity amongst established and upcoming Regional Climate Centres to

regionalize products from WMO designated Global Centres. It also aims at providing a platform for technical discussions on drivers of continental climate and interregional interactions.

FOCUS-Africa welcomes this new initiative and is glad to participate as a supporting project.

[Presentation from the First forum](#)

FOCUS-Africa at the EMS Innovative Presentation Award

The European meteorological Society (EMS) Annual Meeting 2021 was attended by FOCUS-Africa partners on Friday 10th September, with 549 participants from 43 countries. This was a great opportunity to present the project to a wide audience.

The submitted abstract entitled "Demonstrating the full-value chain of climate services in Southern Africa: the FOCUS-Africa project", was accepted for 15 minutes of an oral presentation by the conference scientific committee, and was presented by Roberta Boscolo, the coordinator of the project (WMO), and Hamid Bastani, project coordination team member (WMO).

[Access the full presentation here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



[The international symposium Climate change & Water](#) on May 31 and June 1 and 2, 2022
[World environment day](#) 5 June,
ICEDS 2022: 16. [International Conference on Environment, Development and Sustainability](#)
July 19-20, 2022
COP 27 - [UN Climate Change Conference 2022](#) - 7 to 18 november 2022

→ Have a look at our calendar [here](#) for updated information on upcoming related events.

NEWS & RESOURCES

Our advisory board is growing

We are glad to have Jorge Alvar-Beltrán joining FOCUS-Africa's Advisory Board. Jorge Alvar-Beltrán is Climate Risks and Agrometeorology Specialist for the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB) at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).



We can now count on a team of 12 experts! Have a look at our [advisory board members here](#).

ACMAD Local Consultants

3 new consultants joined the project in TMA, MMS, SADC-CSC since March 2022:

- Vaileth Jonas in Tanzania
- Esther Jansen in Botswana
- Ram Dhurmea in Mauritius



FOCUS-Africa resources

- [Discover more about our case studies](#)



- Watch the recordings of our Stakeholder workshops focusing on the [Tanzanian](#) and [South-African](#) contexts.
- [Videos to learn more](#) about our Case Studies
- Our partners publications are [here](#).
- Discover our [project results](#).

Our sister projects are also advancing well!

Check out their last achievements

CONFER

The [CONFER project](#) focuses on East Africa and aims to facilitate climate adaptation through co-production of Climate Services in the Region for the water, energy and food security sectors.



They recently published a policy brief on integrating diverse knowledge types in the development of climate services for improved agro-pastoral community resilience.

[Read the policy brief](#)



DOWN2EARTH

The DOWN2EARTH project focuses on the Horn of Africa Drylands and aims at translating climate information into multilevel decision support for social adaptation, policy development, and resilience to water scarcity.

[Visit their website](#)

PROJECT PARTNERS

Project Partners



We are a team of strategists, researchers, scientists and industry leaders from 16 different organisations based in Africa & Europe.

[Get to know our project partners](#)



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