



# FOCUS-Africa Newsletter

*Issue 3 - April 2023*



## Project overview

***2022 Achievements at a glance, Roberta Boscolo, WMO***

The FOCUS-Africa project is already well in its third year of implementation and I continue to be surprised by the level of achievement and commitment so far but especially in the last year. Thanks to the relaxation of the COVID restrictions, the different teams involved in the case studies had the opportunity to meet in person with the various stakeholders in Southern African and hence making significant progress with the co-design, co-development and co-production of the climate services.

The team led by WEMC, in charge of developing end-user tailored climate services prototypes, was able to collect the requirements for the climate services in each of the case studies. The team also conducted a considerable amount of work in meteorological and sector-specific (agriculture, energy, etc.) data collection as well as their initial assessment. These data analyses, which effectively started the co-development phase of co-production, have been a very useful way to strengthen the engagement with users, also as a way of demonstrating to them different methods of producing and delivering useful climate information. Each case study now has a well-developed workflow, which is being used to guide the development of the trial climate services. The workflows also highlight key stakeholders, beyond the immediate users, and possible paths for exploitation.

The strong collaboration with the Impact Assessment Team (IAT of Work Package 6) was very effective for the development of the co-production workflow.

The IAT, lead by LGI, is working on the socio-economic baseline assessment by applying the methodology that builds on the Sustainable Development Goals but adapted to fit the context of FOCUS-Africa. The four macro-categories considered are:

- Inclusive Economy growth
- Food-Water-Energy nexus
- Governance Innovation, Partnership and Capacity Building
- Climate Change and Disaster Resilience

This approach facilitated the development of eight impact assessment grids, one for each case study. Every grid is composed of transversal indicators, common to all case studies, and of case study specific indicators, allowing to produce a context-adapted baseline assessment. Every country was also assessed with regards to the existing climate services, producing a climate services benchmark for the country, as well as a regional benchmark for each sector.

The assessment of the socio-economic situation was largely based on meetings, interviews and focus group discussions made during the missions

to the five countries, as well as academic literature and public reports. Each case study team travelled to their respective country at least once to complete this task. During the travels, the teams were able to include stakeholders in the discussion and establish a strong collaboration with the fellow users, which allowed to produce this report.

[Read the full article from Roberta](#)

## SAVE THE DATE



The fourth **FOCUS-Africa Stakeholder Workshop** will take place in **Mozambique** on May 10th 2023 in presential mode. Attendance to the workshop is by invitation only.

Bringing together the consortium members, close partners, advisory board (AB) members, European Union (EU) officers, and local stakeholders from Mozambique to better understand the local needs and requirements for related case studies in food security.

The project partners will gather from 8 to 12 May 2023, participating to a consortium workshop and training activities as well as the stakeholder workshop.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



**Discover FOCUS-Africa's mission in video!**

What are climate services and how are they useful? With this new video learn more on the project objectives and how we plan to achieve them!

[Watch the video](#)



## FOCUS-Africa mission to Tanzania!

The FOCUS-Africa project is working to implement tailored trial climate services in Tanzania. Specifically, the project is focusing on case studies 4, 5, and 6, which involve food security, infrastructure, and energy, respectively. The goal of the mission, which took place in Dar es Salaam Tanzania in March 2023, was to meet with stakeholders to engage in the infrastructure case study.

[Read more about the mission](#)

## MAIN UPDATES FROM 2022

### Projects highlights and latest news

#### Our third Stakeholder workshop focusing on South Africa and Mauritius took place in June 2022

The first part of the workshop involved consortium member discussions on progress, challenges and next steps towards realizing the project goals and objectives. The food-water-energy nexus was also discussed with aim of enhancing interlinkages and synergies between climate services and case studies in different sectors.



[Access all resources here](#)

During this workshop we took the opportunity to ask FOCUS-Africa partners their thoughts on the project, listen to them in our interview videos:



[Work Package leaders videos](#)



[Case Study Leaders videos](#)

## Mission to Tanzania



After Mozambique and Mauritius, the team has travelled to Tanzania with the objective to better understand local stakeholders' climate services usage, needs and challenges and ensure their input into the codesign of the tailored climate services in the case studies there. FOCUS-Africa's case studies in Tanzania focus on the following sectors: agriculture and food security (case study 4), infrastructure (case study 5) and energy (case study 6).

[Learn more on this mission](#)

## Mission to Mozambique



The mission to Mozambique lasted from September 12th to October 12th, 2022, for a total duration of 31 days for some of the researchers from SSSA and IIAM. The schedule was arranged so that different activities were run at once, involving different members of the team.

The objectives of the mission were the following:

- Collect and analyze relevant data to inform CS3 activities;
- Showcase and conduct training for the CS3 climate service at INAM;
- Prepare the ground for the 2023 FOCUS-Africa Project Workshop

[Read the mission report](#)

## Mission to Malawi





The final FOCUS-Africa 2022 country mission took place in Malawi from 3-12 October. The mission included partners involved in the Case Study on Climate Services for Food Security (CS2) and the Case Study on Climate Services for Energy and Water in Malawi (CS7). The mission started in Blantyre, Malawi where both teams met with the colleagues from DCCMS. The two teams then continued separate meetings with stakeholders, keeping joint evening briefings over delicious Malawian dinners.

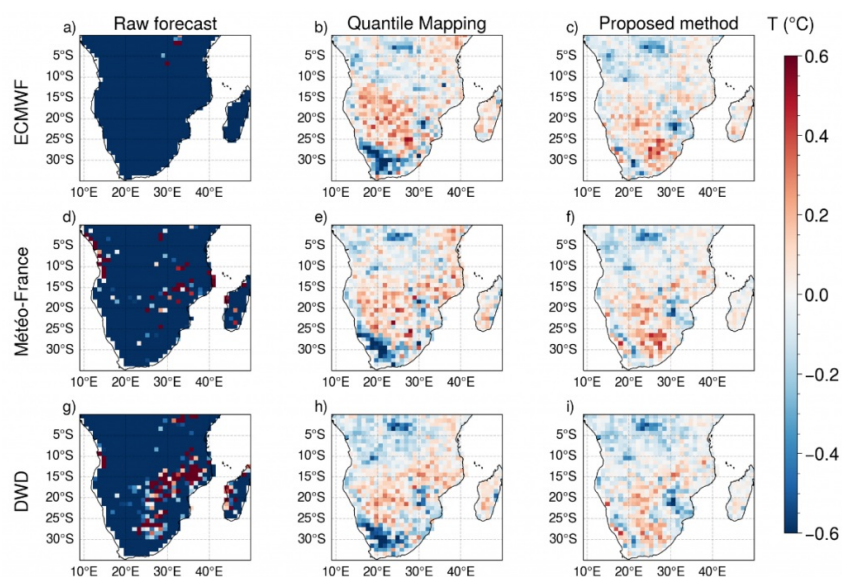
[Learn more on the mission](#)



## Mission to Malawi: Video on Energy and Water Case study

[Check the video here](#)

## Publication: A Novel Bias Correction Method for Extreme Events



The bias correction of modelled data is often used when one is using impact models to assess the effect of climate events on human activities. However, the efficacy of most of the currently available methods is reduced in the case of extreme events because of the limited number of data for these low probability and high impact events.

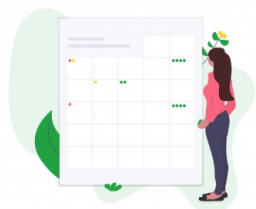
## COP27 side events with sister project CONFER and Down2Earth



In November 2022, the FOCUS-Africa project along with its sister projects Down2Earth and CONFER, had the pleasure of holding two side events at the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP27) in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt. Across the two side events the 3 sister projects presented various project outputs including project videos, a new podcast series on the use of climate services and practical examples of how climate services are being used to resilience and adaptation in different sectors.

[More information and recordings available](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

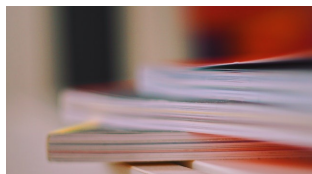


[Innovate4Climate \(I4C\)](#) May 23-24, Bilbao

[Second Forum of the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change](#), 13-14 June, Blekinge, Sweden

[International Conference on Sustainability, Environment, and Social Transition in Economics and Finance \(SESTEF 2023\)](#), 14-15-16 December, Southampton, UK

## RESOURCES



- [Learn more about our case studies](#)
- Read our project results and partners publications [here](#)

**Follow our sister projects**

## 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.



## 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.

## 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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