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Report on the second series of the events

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Summary

This deliverable is a mid-term report on the second series of the project communication and dissemination events since March 2022, and covers their purposes, content, and impacts. The report builds on the first mid-term report (deliverable 1.3 submitted in February 2022), and briefs on the recently conducted activities in the light of the updated project communication and dissemination plan (CDP) (deliverable 1.4 submitted in January 2023). The report includes a summary of the stakeholder workshops, targeted field trips for different Case Studies, outreach and advocacy activities under the project’s website and social media channels, collaboration with regional initiatives and sister projects, and participation in external events. The report also provides an overview of metrics to assess our progress in communication and dissemination, along with the achievements of user engagement.

Approval

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Mid-term Report on the Second Series of Events

Deliverable D1.5

Lead Beneficiary: WMO

August/2023

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About FOCUS-Africa

FOCUS-Africa – Full-value chain Optimised Climate User-centric Services for Southern Africa – is developing sustainable tailored climate services in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region for four sectors: agriculture and food security, water, energy and infrastructure.

It will pilot eight case studies in six countries involving a wide range of end-uses to illustrate how the application of new climate forecasts, projections, resources from Copernicus, GFCS and other relevant products can maximise socio-economic benefits in the Southern Africa region and potentially in the whole of Africa.

Led by WMO, it gathers 14 partners across Africa and Europe jointly committed to addressing the recurring sustainability and exploitation challenge of climate services in Africa over a period of 48 months.

For more information visit: www.focus-africaproject.eu

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Table of Contents

Contents

ABOUT FOCUS-AFRICA.....	3
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	4
FIGURES.....	4
TABLES.....	5
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	6
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	6
KEYWORDS.....	6
1 INTRODUCTION.....	8
1.1 CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW.....	8
1.2 COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION IN THE PROJECT.....	9
2 STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOPS, INTERNAL MEETINGS, AND EXTERNAL EVENTS.....	10
2.1 THIRD STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP.....	10
2.2 FOURTH STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP.....	13
2.3 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.....	15
2.4 TARGETED FIELD TRIPS.....	16
2.4.1 Mauritius (CS8, April 2022).....	17
2.4.2 Tanzania (CS4,5,6, May 2022).....	18
2.4.3 Malawi (CS2, October 2022).....	19
2.4.4 Mozambique (CS3, October 2022).....	20
2.4.5 Tanzania (CS5, March 2023).....	21
2.4.6 South Africa (CS1, May 2023).....	22
2.5 CONFERENCES AND EXTERNAL EVENTS.....	23
2.6 COLLABORATION WITH REGIONAL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES.....	25
2.6.1 Interactions with H2020 sister projects (CONFER and DOWN2EARTH).....	25
2.6.2 Synergies with other regional initiatives and projects.....	27
3 COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES	27
3.1 OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY.....	27
3.2 VISUAL MATERIALS.....	29
4 MATRICES AND EVALUATION.....	30
5 CONCLUSION.....	31

Figures

Figure 1: FOCUS-Africa pert chart.....	9
Figure 2: Third stakeholder's workshop: Distribution of attendees by countries.....	10
Figure 3: Third stakeholders' workshop, Pretoria, South Africa, May 2022.....	12
Figure 4: Fourth stakeholders' workshop, Maputo and Macaneta, Mozambique, May 2023.....	14
Figure 5: FOCUS-Africa Advisory Board members.....	15
Figure 6: Filed trip to Mauritius, April 2022.....	17
Figure 7: Field trip to Tanzania, May 2022.....	18

Figure 8: Field trip to Malawi, October 2022.....	19
Figure 9: Second field trip to Mozambique, September/October 2022.....	20
Figure 10: Second field trip to Tanzania, March 2023.....	21
Figure 11: Field trip to South Africa, June 2023.....	22
Figure 12: Two side-events at COP27 with EU sister projects, November 2022.....	26
Figure 13: New series of joint technical webinars with EU sister projects on.....	26
Figure 14: FOCUS-Africa website and social media channels.....	28
Figure 15: FOCUS-Africa roll-up poster.....	29
Figure 16: FOCUS-Africa folding postcard.....	29

Tables

Table 1: Consortium partners participation in conferences and external events.....	23
Table 2: Metrics and evaluation: Numbers of engaged users.....	30

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AB	Advisory Board
ACMAD	African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development
BSC	Barcelona Supercomputer Centre
CDP	Communication and Dissemination Plan
CONFER	Co-production of Climate Services for East Africa
CS	Case Study
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
DCCMS	Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services
FA	FOCUS-Africa
IIAM	Mozambique Institute of Agricultural Research
NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
MMS	Mauritius Meteorological Services
NASFAM	National Smallholder Farmers Association of Malawi
RRI	Responsible Research and Innovation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARCOF	Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum
SSSA	Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies/ Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna
TMA	Tanzania Meteorological Authority
WEMC	World Energy and Meteorology Council
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WP	Work Package
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Executive Summary

This deliverable is a mid-term report on the second series of the project's communication and dissemination events since March 2022, and covers their purposes, content, and impacts. The report builds on the first mid-term report (deliverable 1.3 submitted in February 2022), and briefs on the recently conducted activities in the light of the updated project communication and dissemination plan (CDP) (deliverable 1.4 submitted in January 2023).

The report includes a summary of the stakeholder workshops, targeted field trips for different Case Studies, outreach and advocacy activities under the project's website and social media channels, collaboration with regional initiatives and sister projects, and participation in external events. The report also provides an overview of metrics to assess our progress in communication and dissemination, along with the achievements of user engagement.

Keywords

Communication, dissemination, stakeholder workshops, external events, field trips, sister projects, regional collaboration.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Context and overview

FOCUS-Africa project develops tailored climate services in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region for the following four sectors: agriculture and food security, water, energy, and infrastructure. The applied co-production approach amongst end-users, climate scientists and sectoral service providers ensures that the full value chain for the delivery of the climate services is effectively realized. Various climate-related products, spanning a diverse spectrum, are nearing the final stages of development. These advancements and products are the result of collaborative efforts with partners of the project across Africa and Europe that will be applied on eight case studies located in Tanzania, Mauritius, South Africa, Mozambique, and Malawi.

The 15 project partners, from across Africa and Europe, collectively referred to as the 'FOCUS-Africa Consortium' throughout this document, are:

- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)
- The Met Office (MO)
- World Energy and Meteorology Council (WEMC)
- Electricité De France (EDF)
- African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)
- Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- LGI Consulting
- Global Change Institute (GCI) – University of the Witwatersrand
- University of Cape Town, The Climate System Analysis Group (CSAG)
- Amigo s.r.l.
- Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies (SSSA)
- Plan International
- Malawi Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS)
- Mozambique Institute of Agricultural Research (IIAM)

The major change in partners since the start of the project is the withdrawal of the JRC from the consortium from 1 March 2022, however their activities have been allocated to other partners. Apart from the direct collaborators and stakeholders of the FOCUS-Africa project involved in the case studies, a variety of relevant projects and climate service initiatives in Africa has been linked to FOCUS-Africa in order to create a wider user community, thus emphasising the FOCUS-Africa's effort in stakeholders' engagement. Figure 1 shows the diagram of the FOCUS-Africa project and provides an overview of the stakeholder engagement in WP1, as well as communication and dissemination activities, spanning over the eight case studies of the project and interconnecting the Work packages (WPs).

This current report encapsulates a comprehensive overview of our communication and dissemination activities elaborated in the project's workplan. Notably, the report delves into the successful execution of the third and fourth stakeholders' workshops that were held in person thanks to the improved COVID situation, and successful targeted field trips as an integral facet of stakeholder involvement. The resonance of the conducted activities has reached and attracted a wide audience of individuals, as evidenced by the number of views on the project's website and engagement across various social media platforms. A meaningful synergy with regional projects and EU sister projects has been established and strengthened, expanding the extent of our influence of the project's impacts.

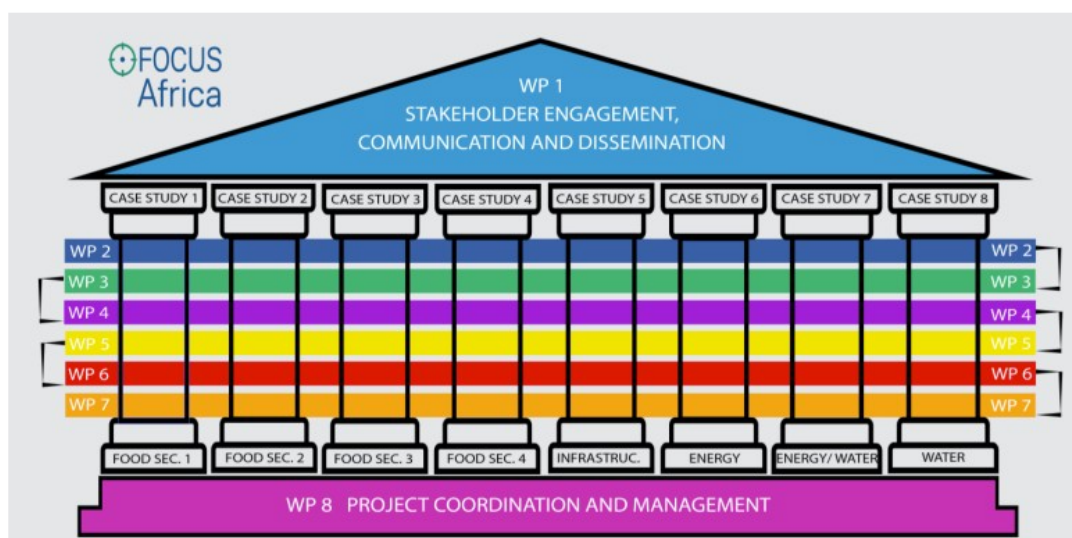


Figure 1: FOCUS-Africa pert chart

1.2 Communication and dissemination in the project

Communication and dissemination activities play a central role in ensuring that the results of FOCUS-Africa are shared with the broader stakeholder community to maximize the impacts in the SADC region. In this regard, the consortium prepared an updated version of the Communication and Dissemination Plan (CDP, deliverable 1.4 submitted by January 2023), which aligns with the overall strategy of the CDP (deliverable 1.2 submitted by February 2021). The updated CDP outlines the communication and dissemination activities for the rest of the project's duration based on the output of the implemented stakeholder's workshop and field trips that greatly helped to identify and inform the production of the trial climate services. These trial climate services are the object of much of the project communication and dissemination content. The three **main communication objectives** of the FOCUS-Africa project remained unchanged as follows:

- Ensure that the project outputs and results reach the relevant target groups, especially service users, in and beyond the participating countries;
- Ensure transparency and visibility of the project activities and acquire the needed support from crucial stakeholders;
- Ensure exploration of synergies between projects funded under the same or similar calls and related communications opportunities.

Strong engagement of stakeholders is important for understanding and addressing the needs and requirements of users. This remains the cornerstone for the co-development and co-production of climate services. This engagement has been ensured so far through a set of stakeholders' workshops and field trips, focusing on different case studies and sectors. Continuous interaction with users is also necessary to make sure that the developed products satisfy their needs and that any modification, if necessary, can be applied.

The CDP has listed several main challenges and barriers:

- Unsustainable climate services or vague sustainability performance of the new climate services

- Limited replicability/scalability of services
- Poor user engagement aggravated by the Covid-19 situation.

Since the previous mid-term report on the first series of events (Deliverable 1.3), there has been a noticeable improvement in the COVID-19 situation, allowing the partners to engage more effectively with users in different countries of the SADC region. The implementation of in-person events and field trips has played a pivotal role in fostering better connections and understanding with stakeholders. These face-to-face interactions have not only facilitated direct communication but have also enriched the project experience by providing valuable insights and first-hand experiences. The original plan envisaged about 25-30 participants per workshop, however the number of participants considerably exceeded the expectations in the recent two in-person workshops.

A list of different events, with pre-defined targeted audiences, key messages and key performance indicators (KPIs) has been set by the CDP to achieve the goal of user engagement. More information on the evaluation of the progress on different activities is given under section 5.

2 Stakeholders' workshops, general assembly meetings, and external events

The first two stakeholder workshops, which were held online and documented in D1.3, were:

- [First FA Stakeholders' Workshop](#) was focused on South Africa and comprised of general assembly (30 November – 1 December 2020) and stakeholder workshop (9 December 2020) with a focus on related food security case study in South Africa.
- [Second FA Stakeholders' Workshop](#) had the first day dedicated to the General Assembly virtual meeting that brought together the FA consortium members, close partners, Advisory Board (AB) members, EU officers and H2020 sister projects coordinators. This was followed by a two-day virtual FOCUS-Africa external stakeholders meeting focusing on the case studies in Tanzania for energy, infrastructure, and food security.

With the easing of the COVID situation, the third and fourth workshops took place in hybrid format, as indicated in the extended summary below. The fifth stakeholders' workshop is planning for October 2024 in Tanzania to present the project's outcomes of the project, particularly those associated with the three case studies in Tanzania and other similar case studies.

2.1 Third stakeholder workshop

The [3rd stakeholder workshop](#) of the FOCUS-Africa project took place from 30 May to 3 June 2022 in Pretoria, South Africa with a total number of 137 presential and virtual participants, comprising local stakeholders, consortium and AB members, and representatives from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. It was the first in-person stakeholder workshop for the project due to the project having started at the onset of the COVID pandemic. The workshop was composed of consortium assembly (30 and 31 May and 3 June 2022), dedicated to partners meetings, and stakeholders' sessions (1-2 June 2022). For the stakeholder workshop days, 70 experts attended in person, of those, 41 were project members and the remaining 28 external stakeholders, whilst 68 registered to attend online. Figure Error: Reference source not found illustrates the distribution of attendees by country, as provided at the time of registering.

The consortium event was structured around one and a half days, and composed of a mix of presentations, panel discussions and break-out group dialogues. The presentations served to introduce the specific case studies that were the focus of the workshop, with case study 1 (food security, South Africa) on Day 1, and case study 8 (water, Mauritius) on Day 2. The meeting provided an opportunity for work package leaders and case study leaders to share their progress on the first half of the project and their vision for the future implementation.

The focus of the stakeholder's event was on case study 1 (food security in South Africa) and case study 8 (water management in Mauritius). The workshop explored local gaps, opportunities, and activities especially in South Africa and Mauritius, but covered broader regional perspectives whenever possible. More specifically, day 1, which was fully devoted to case study 1, started with two presentations from the potential beneficiary of the climate services under development, the Land Bank, and the associated research provider, CSIR. These introductory presentations were followed by a panel discussion which focused on the user requirements. After a presentation on the socio-economic context, the workshop participants continued the discussion on user requirements and the role of climate services in break out groups. In the afternoon, the participants learned from farmers their cultivation practices, followed by a panel discussion, and break out groups on differences in agricultural practices in South Africa. All the break-out group discussions of the day were presented and further discussed during the final plenary session which concluded day 1. A similar format was followed for case study 8 on day 2, whereby four presentations introduced the case study goals, research, and applications, with further discussions in break out groups. These were again centred around discussions on climate services needs and on the role of climate services in tackling socio-economic challenges.

The afternoon of day 2 of the stakeholder workshop, 2nd June 2022, was dedicated to a capacity building session on seasonal climate forecasts for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services. Aside from providing training on seasonal climate forecasting, the session sought inputs from NMHS around i) Seasonal forecasting status in the SADC region, ii) Objective forecasting from NMHSs perspective, iii) NMHSs role in objective approaches at SARCOF, iv) NMHSs interaction with users in different sectors to share the seasonal forecast, v) required improvements in seasonal forecasting processes, and vi) how can information emerging from seasonal forecasts be better adapted to produce tailored climate services for users.

In summary, the workshop goals were successfully achieved, marking a significant milestone as the project's first in-person stakeholder workshop. The face-to-face interactions not only facilitated closer partners engagement but also contributed to teambuilding. Further challenges were identified during the workshop, here they are listed below:

- Urgent need for accurate rainy season prediction,
- necessity for clear communication of forecast uncertainties, including natural and structural factors.
- Scientist-user engagement enhances mutual learning, especially in diverse forecast interpretation methods.
- Important role of visual and descriptive communication of projections and uncertainties
- Encouraging data sharing fosters trust and model improvement.
- Recognizing indigenous knowledge in forecasting
- Sustained stakeholder connections and government collaboration as priorities of the project.

Figure Error: Reference source not found shows a curated collection of workshop images, encompassing technical presentations, breakout group discussions with stakeholders, online participants, as well as all attendees present during the stakeholders workshop's days. Additional

details regarding the workshop's schedule, presentations, and a report can be accessed through the event's webpage at the following link: <https://focus-africaproject.eu/resources/third-stakeholder-workshop-south-africa-mauritius/>

2.2 Fourth Stakeholder workshop

The [fourth stakeholder workshop](#) was held in an in-person format from 08-12 May 2023 in Maputo and Macaneta, Mozambique, with approximately 60 participants. The focus of the workshop was on the case studies being developed for the agriculture and food security sector in Mozambique and Mauritius. The workshop was structured in 3 main parts: Consortium meeting (8-9 May 2023) focused on discussion of project progress and key issues to be addressed by project consortium members in the upcoming months of the project; stakeholders workshop (10 May 2023) involving participants from the broader community relevant to the case studies in Mozambique and Mauritius as well as representatives from the NMHSs of all the SADC countries; and capacity building session (11-12 May 2023). The objectives of the fourth stakeholder workshop were to:

- Promote visibility of FOCUS-Africa project by showcasing the case study in Mozambique
- Understand and review users' requirements, perspectives, and strategies for climate services delivery in Mozambique, and other food security case studies in the project
- Better understand fellow-users' requirements and assess the status of the stakeholder's engagement
- Expand the stakeholder network in Mozambique.

The project consortium meeting was held in Maputo at the premises of the IIAM HQ. The partners discussed progress and next steps in the project, particularly in the leadup to the second midterm review to be held in late 2023 for the period up to August 2023. Various issues were discussed for the project work packages (WPs) and case studies (CSs), including discussion on future stakeholders' workshops. The current plan is to have one more stakeholders' workshop in Tanzania and a final conference to be held jointly with the H2020 sister projects (CONFER and Down2Earth) aligned with the EU European Development Days 2024.

Approximately 60 people participated in the stakeholder's workshop, which was held in Macaneta, north of Maputo, including representatives from WFP Mozambique, The Mozambique Ministry of Agriculture, and the Mozambique National Meteorological Institute (INAM) among others. Presentations from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of Mozambique, focused on crop monitoring and the collaboration and support through the Group on Earth Observations Global Agricultural Monitoring Initiative (GEOGLAM), which is housed in WMO secretariat. World Food Programme (WFP) highlighted their support to climate services for the agriculture sector using the Participatory Integrated Climate services for Agriculture (PICSA) approach. The presentation given by INAM highlighted the need to enhance the communication of climate information, including through extension officers who themselves require capacity building on delivery of climate information to farmers.

The training session comprised broader training and discussion on: (i) seasonal forecasting in Eastern and Southern Africa led by the UK Met Office, (ii) overview of the approach used by ACMAD to calculate rainy season onset, (iii) introduction to an alternative monsoon onset calculation method for Tanzania and Malawi led by the World Energy and Meteorology Council (WEMC), and (iv) a hands-on training on a new tool for agrometeorological rainy season onset that has been developed by the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies (SSSA) (AquaBEHER tool). The participants learned basic calculation methods using historical data and how to use them for developing forecast methodologies. The integration of climate information with genomics under case study 3 was noted as being a good example of innovation in climate services, and machine learning for seasonal

forecasting was briefly discussed. Participants highlighted the need for better forecasting of wet and dry spells, in addition to the onset and duration of the rainy season. Satellite-derived indices for agriculture monitoring were also identified as an area for agriculture development.

Overall, the workshop was a success and helped raise awareness on the climate services work by INAM among stakeholders on the FOCUS-Africa project and more broadly among other stakeholders in Mozambique. The demand for agrometeorological capacity building is raising and participants requested follow up trainings to be done on the forecasting aspects of the case studies.

Figure Error: Reference source not found presents some of workshop photographs, including technical presentations, breakout group discussions with stakeholders, and the complete assembly of participants during the workshop's external sessions. Additional details regarding the workshop's schedule, presentations, and a report can be accessed (or will be accessible) through the event's webpage at the following link: <https://focus-africaproject.eu/resources/fourth-workshop-mozambique/>

2.3 Advisory Board meeting

The FOCUS-Africa AB currently includes 12 members, with the new addition of Dr. Jorge Alvar-Beltrán, who serves as a specialist in Climate Risks and Agrometeorology for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The list below and Figure Error: Reference source not found provide the names and headshot of the AB members.

- Dr. Fatima Denton, PhD (United Nations University)
- Alex Simalabwi (Global Water Partnership)
- Erik W. Kolstad, PhD (Bjerknes Centre for Climate Research, CONFER Coordinator)
- Willem A. Landman (University of Pretoria)
- Michael Bliss Singer, PhD, PH (Cardiff University, DOWN2EARTH Coordinator)
- Ana Heureux, PhD (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO))
- Lars Frederiksen (COWI Engineering Consultants)
- Samantha Burgess, PhD (Copernicus Climate Change Service)
- Prof. Bruce Hewitson, PhD (University of Cape Town)
- Filipe Lucio (WMO & Global Framework for Climate Services)
- Dr. Detlef Stammer (University of Hamburg)
- Dr. Jorge Alvar-Beltrán (FAO)

Two meetings with the AB members were held on November 2022 and July 2021, which was reported in D1.3. The third AB meeting took place on 26 April 2022 prior to the 3rd Stakeholder Workshop with the theme of “better connected and informed end-users”. The meeting format was slightly modified compared to the previous two sessions, with work package leaders (WPLs) and case study leaders (CSLs) recording and sharing videos of their respective progress in the project ahead of the meeting. The new format was introduced for reducing time of presentations and allocating more time for discussion, questions and comments. The AB members welcomed this approach and the consortium received well-structured feedback on different aspects of the project. One of the main recommendations of the meeting was to develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the project in collaboration with the Advisory Board members. Start working on improvement of the overall reliability of the measures was also proposed by members. Finally, there was an extended

discussion on how to ensure sustainability and funding after the project ends, which should be considered in all project activities.

The Consortium of FOCUS-Africa agreed to integrate the fourth Advisory Board meeting as part of the 4th FOCUS-Africa workshop week by inviting AB members to the workshop. During the first two years of the project, the advisory board played a vital role in guiding and steering the project's activities during its inception. Their valuable insights and guidance set the course for project's endeavours. As the project has evolved and matured, the focus of the advisory board's involvement has shifted towards broader outreach and advocacy efforts. Their current role encompasses actively promoting the project's mission and objectives and engaging with diverse stakeholders for amplifying its impact on a wider scale. This transition underscores the board's adaptability and commitment to driving positive change throughout the project's lifecycle, ensuring its lasting influence and success. A few members of the AB could attend the workshop, and their active involvement proved to be immensely valuable.

2.4 Targeted field trips

While field trips were not initially part of the original plan, they were introduced as a supplementary measure to compensate for the lack of stakeholders engagement aggravated by the COVID-19 period when travel restrictions were in place. Building on the success of the targeted missions for case studies, they have since been consistently organized to ensure active user engagement and facilitate direct and immersive interactions with local stakeholders of different case studies. Sustaining the practice of targeted field trips remained of importance in engaging stakeholders within the project as highlighted in the previous report dating back to February 2022.

Indeed, in the process of assessing user needs, establishing the socio-economic baseline, and involving stakeholders in case studies, visits to the respective countries have become an integral component. While the primary goals of these visits were to advance both the scientific and socio-economic dimensions of the case studies, they also played a pivotal role in increasing awareness about project activities. Furthermore, these missions facilitated communication and dissemination of project initiatives and outcomes. Up until now, seven missions have been successfully conducted in Mozambique (October 2021 and September 2022), Mauritius (March 2022), Tanzania (May 2022 and March 2023), Malawi (October 2022), and South Africa (May 2023). The initial mission to Mozambique was previously documented, while here a brief overview of the six subsequent field trips are presented.

The mission yielded several positive results, including:

- 1) Heightened comprehension of diverse user requirements within the domains of the case studies
- 2) Increased recognition of the project among key stakeholders;
- 3) Raised awareness of the endeavours of local partners and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, leading to the identification of additional opportunities for collaboration across wider sectors;
- 4) Improved grasp of the socioeconomic framework in which climate services will be provided;
- 5) Strengthened relationships with users, and
- 6) Advanced the conceptualization of certain scientific aspects crucial for the development of climate services.

In this document, the reporting format for each country missions includes the overall details about the timing and location, a list of mission participants, a concise overview of the executed activities, highlighting key subjects of discussion, and main results. Additionally, visual content in the

form of photographs is included to complement the report. Furthermore, a hyperlink to the missions' webpage on the project's website is provided for additional information.

2.4.1 Mauritius (CS8, April 2022)

The FOCUS-Africa Case Study 8 team, consisting of WMO and CSIR members, conducted a mission to Mauritius from 28-31 April 2022. Aligned with the focus of the Case Study 8 on water resources, the mission aimed to enhance stakeholder involvement, socio-economic aspects, and scientific insights. Facilitated by the Mauritius Meteorological Services (MMS), the team interacted with five water resources and agriculture institutions over four days, discussing climate service utilization. A workshop lasting half a day was arranged to engage stakeholders to share climate resilience activities and address common service needs. The importance of co-designing tailored climate services and collaborating with different institutions was strongly emphasized.

Interesting results emerged during a wide range of conversations, showing that some of the stakeholders use historical climate data for planning of infrastructure such as irrigation facilities and in some cases for long term variety selection or for yield projection on a season-to-season basis. Post event analysis by MMS is also used to inform insurance payouts and compensation to farmers related to losses from climate hazards, though these are not based on climate information alone. However, the use of forecasts could be enhanced and could contribute to the countries goals to make irrigation more efficient and productive; while climate projections could be used to make infrastructure and crop farming more resilient to climate change, priorities that are already mentioned in the Mauritius Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) (2015).

The mission yielded raised awareness, enhanced insights into climate service needs, better socio-economic context understanding, and technical advancements for Case Study 8. The CSIR team aided configurational changes to MMS forecasting models for improved seasonal forecasts feeding into tailored climate services. Finally, a roadmap for developing and testing new climate services, including sensitivity tests and model evaluation, was prepared by CSIR and MMS.

Figure Error: Reference source not found displays a photograph featuring the members of the WMO, CSIR, and MMS teams. More information about the mission can be found through the project's website: <https://focus-africaproject.eu/2022/04/12/focus-africa-mission-to-mauritius/>

2.4.2 Tanzania (CS4,5,6, May 2022)

Following the missions to Mozambique (CS2) and Mauritius (CS8), some of the FOCUS-Africa consortium members travelled to Tanzania from 9-13 May 2022 to comprehend local stakeholders' climate service needs and challenges for the co-design of tailored climate services in three case studies. These Tanzanian case studies focus on agriculture and food security (Case study 4), infrastructure (Case study 5), and energy (Case study 6). Participants in the mission included staff from WMO, the Met Office, LGI; World Energy and Meteorology Council (WEMC), and the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre (BSC).

Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) hosted and organized the various aspects of the mission. Meetings and consultations were held with the Tanzania National Electricity Supply Company (TANESCO), TOTAL Energies, University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Climate Action Network Tanzania (CAN Tz), Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), as well as with 10 extension agents and 20 farmers from the Pwani Region. During the mission, the team gained insights into the work of the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) and existing weather and

climate forecasts for agriculture, energy, and infrastructure. Focus group discussions with agriculture, energy, and infrastructure stakeholders provided valuable local context. The agriculture team gained insights into indigenous climate forecasting indicators, while the energy and infrastructure teams recognized the need for better climate resilience in planning. Meetings with TANESCO and TotalEnergies highlighted potential collaborations in sustainable energy.

The mission's success was marked by improved stakeholder engagement and understanding. Concrete information collected guided case study teams (agriculture, infrastructure, and energy) in effective climate service development. The mission fostered partnerships and mutual comprehension between the project team, TMA, and stakeholders, facilitating successful implementation. It also yielded valuable insights into climate service implementation by incorporating indigenous knowledge and feedback. The mission also highlighted the need to address climate change's impact on agriculture, energy, and infrastructure planning. By fostering relationships and mutual understanding, the mission laid a strong foundation for effective climate service co-development. This promises resilience, informed decisions, and positive outcomes across sectors. Figure Error: Reference source not found shows some selected photos of the mission. More detailed information can be found through the mission's news webpage on the project's website: <https://focus-africaproject.eu/2022/05/31/a-look-back-on-focus-africa-3rd-joint-partners-stakeholders-engagement-mission/>

2.4.3 Malawi (CS2, October 2022)

The fourth FOCUS-Africa 2022 field trip occurred in Malawi from 3-12 October 2022. This mission encompassed collaborators engaged in the Climate Services for Food Security (CS2) and Climate Services for Energy and Water (CS7) in Malawi. Commencing in Blantyre, Malawi, two groups convened with DCCMS colleagues and FOCUS-Africa consortium members from WMO, BSC, AMIGO, WEMC, EDF, and LGI. Following this, each team held distinct sessions with stakeholders, convening joint evening updates during delightful Malawian dinners. Engagement encompassed most case study stakeholders. Insights from discussions and interviews fueled co-production, shaping the climate service for local needs.

Assisted by NASFAM, the CS2 team engaged 40+ farmers and extension workers in Zomba and Phalombe for focus groups covering staple crops, local wisdom, climate change impacts, and info use. During the exchanges, changes in the rainy season and the onset start day concern farmers and drought was perceived as the most severe problem. In the past, October was the month when the rainy season would start, but nowadays there is no fixed date or month for the onset. It was explored that NASFAM shares DCCMS's seasonal forecast through WhatsApp, SMS, and Chichewa posters in villages. Despite improved trust in the forecast, challenges persisted due to unusual years and unpredictable season onsets, noted by focus group participants. Farmers proposed earlier forecast releases for informed crop selection and land preparation. Requests for regular updates during the rainy season and traditional knowledge's significance were echoed. In Zomba and Phalombe, wind, grasshoppers, birds, and plant sprouting were rain indicators, while open spiderwebs suggested dryness in Phalombe. Abundant mango tree fruits signaled impending drought as an alternative to crop production.

The CS7 energy team conducted daily visits to critical locations like the Liwonde barrage and gauging stations along the Lisungwi River. Discussions focused on socio-economic impacts of hydropower development and utilizing gauging stations for climate data. Challenges included vandalism affecting observation records. Positive meetings with Malawi Electricity Generation Company (EGENCO) and the Ministry of Energy emphasized integrating climate services into hydropower management. The Malawi mission successfully enhanced CS2 and CS7 partner collaboration and engagement with key users and stakeholders. A 10-day collaboration with DCCMS partners improved understanding of FOCUS-Africa's added value. Stakeholder interactions within the

case study were widespread. Figure Error: Reference source not found shows some selected photos of the mission and more information can be found through: <https://focus-africaproject.eu/2022/12/13/focus-africa-mission-to-malawi/>

2.4.4 Mozambique (CS3, October 2022)

The second mission to Mozambique took place from 12 September to 12 October 2022 for a total duration of 31 days. In this mission, some of the researchers from SSSA and IIAM participated to conduct a wide range of activities at once. The objectives of the mission were to i) Collect and analyze relevant data to inform CS3 activities, ii) Showcase and conduct training for the CS3 climate service at INAM, and iii) Prepare the ground for the third FOCUS-Africa Stakeholders' Workshop. The mission focused on four research strands:

- Stakeholder Engagement: Interviews and surveys were conducted to map key stakeholders, gauge climate information flow, and identify areas for improvement in climate service deployment.
- Genomics: Training and laboratory activities centered on genotyping and DNA extraction from cowpea and rice varieties, with samples exceeding initial targets.
- Agrobiodiversity Testing: Although limited in this mission, preparatory steps were taken for experimental field activities to assess rice and cowpea genotypes.
- Climate Analysis: Workshops, meetings, and demonstrations engaged climate service producers and users, collecting feedback and insights to refine the prototype climate service product.

The mission yielded successful outcomes across all objectives and research strands. Notably, insights from the survey in Strand 1 prompted participatory discussions and led to valuable improvements. Challenges identified included logistical and timing considerations for data collection. The mission's accomplishments strengthened the partnership between CS3 and local stakeholders, enhanced the impact of future initiatives, and underscored the commitment to addressing climate challenges for sustainable development. Some photos are shown in figure Error: Reference source not found and more technical information can be found in the mission report here: https://focus-africaproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/FOCUS_Africa_Mission-report_CS3-Mozambique_2022.pdf

2.4.5 Tanzania (CS5, March 2023)

A second mission to Tanzania was planned in March 2023 for a few days with a specific focus on CS5 (infrastructure). The mission involved consortium members from UKMO and TMA. This mission aimed to shape the technical aspects of CS5 through additional engagement and information gathering. The mission was prompted by the need to address challenges encountered during the first mission to Tanzania. While the initial mission successfully advanced CS4 (Food security) and CS6 (Energy), progress was hindered for CS5 due to the absence of end user representation from COWI. During the mission, the Infrastructure Design Engineers was identified as a new user for the climate services.

Remote engagement efforts were only partially effective, prompting the need for in-person interaction and joint technical work. The targeted mission also aimed to rebuild relationships and realign the case study. Face-to-face meetings were planned with TMA's Hydrology department to discuss rainfall extremes and potential climate change extensions, TMA Central Forecasting to explore heatwave research, ACET for hazard identification and index usage, and the Ministry of Water to understand peak discharge estimation practices in a climate change context. Overall, the mission was a success and effectively contributed to addressing project requirements in CS5, expediting progress within this specific case study.

Selected images can be seen in Figure Error: Reference source not found, and additional details are accessible on the mission's webpage via the project's website at <https://focus-africaproject.eu/2023/04/06/focus-africa-second-stakeholders-engagement-mission-to-tanzania/>

2.4.6 South Africa (CS1, May 2023)

The Case Study 1 team embarked on a North West province expedition from 24-28 June 2023. This province forms the focal point of a climate service endeavor seeking to infuse long-term climate risks into Land Bank's credit risk modeling. This involved the deployment of climate projections and crop and livestock models. Consortium members from CSIR and Land Bank attended the field trip in person. BSC and Wits University representatives joined virtually in a meeting with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) on 27 June.

The purpose of the trip was to visit different farming areas in the province to gather information about perceptions of climate risk and climate services amongst farmers, typical crop and livestock management practices, and the ease of access to agricultural finance and supply chains. The areas represented in the visits included Brits, Jericho, Bethanie, Mafikeng/Zeerust and Mareetsane. A set of questions was prepared for this purpose, and the interviewed farmers encompassed a spectrum from emerging to well established farmers. A visit was also made to the Hartbeespoort Dam in the east of the province. This dam supplies water to a network of irrigation canals that stretch for 544 km around the Brits area. The poor water quality in the dam was very evident and is a result of it receiving significant urban return flows from Johannesburg and Pretoria, which in turn has led to eutrophication, algal blooms and an infestation of water hyacinth (invasive species).

Key findings from the field trip included understanding the differences in how irrigated and rainfed farmers use climate services and conduct their farming activities. It was also found that farmers do not consult long-term projections of climate and are focused on making the best of the current season. Farmers were generally practicing a good level of management of their crops. Obtaining finance seemed to be becoming more difficult for most farmers, and especially for emerging farmers, some of whom have not succeeded in obtaining finance. While there are a number of support programmes (technical and financial) offered by DALRRD, some farmers were not aware of them or did not have a good understanding of them. Some of these programmes are offered in collaboration with the Land Bank as blended finance schemes. Figure Error: Reference source not found shows some photos of the field trip.

2.5 Conferences and external events

Since February 2022, the consortium members have been actively participating in impactful national, regional, and international events, meetings, and conferences. These platforms have provided valuable opportunities to showcase the project's information and results to a diverse audience. The following is a curated list of significant events, along with their respective dates, accompanied by brief descriptions highlighting the project's involvement and contributions:

Table 1: Consortium partners participation in conferences and external events

Item	Event	Date	Description	Contribution
1	AISAM Conference (Associazione Italiana di Scienze dell'Atmosfera e Meteorologia)	15-19 February 2022	http://congresso.aisam.eu/index.html	AMIGO presented two oral presentations on some of the fundings of the project
2	Conference: Statement of Status of Tanzania's Climate	3 March 2022		TMA together with other stakeholders and users of climate services provided an update on status of Tanzania's climate
3	Second African Regional Continental Climate Outlook Forum (ACCOF-2)	7-11 March 2022		FOCUS-Africa (WMO and ACMAD partners) participated as one of the supporting projects and co-organizer of the forum with ClimSA project as part of Capacity building of WMO Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and NMHSs (WP7) and stakeholder engagements (WP1). FOCUS Africa logo was used in all meeting documents.
4	Third, fourth and fifth Southern African Regional Climate	7 April, 29 April, 6 May, 1		Attended by FA regional consortium members (CMAD, TMA and other climate

	Outlook Forum (ACCOF -3,-4,-5,-6)	July 2022		experts)
5	Conference: EGU General Assembly 2022	23-27 May 2022	https://www.egu22.eu/	AMIGO gave oral presentation related to task 3.2 of the project
6	Workshop Network of Drought Observatories in the EU organized by JRC	16 July 2022	https:// edo.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ edora/php/index.php? id=201	The FA project and the two relevant case studies to drought (CS2 and 4) were presented by WMO.
7	Workshop Socio-economic benefit (SEB) analysis in South America organized by ENANDES project	18-19 July 2022	https://public.wmo.int/ en/events/workshops/ exchange-workshop- methodologies-analysis- of-socio-economic- benefits-of-climate	WMO presented the SEB methodology developed through FOCUS-Africa project (D6.1)
8	Meeting ACET Annual General meeting (Association of consulting engineers Tanzania)	29 July 2022		TMA and other CS5 stakeholders were invited to the meeting for further interaction and knowledge sharing
9	South African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF)	24-26 August 2022		Attended by WMO, ACMAD, TMA and climate experts
10	Conference: Africa Climate Week	29 August- 02 Septemb er 2022	https://unfccc.int/ climate-action/regional- climate-weeks/africa- climate-week-2022	Linked to FOCUS-Africa D2.3, CSIR co-hosted a side event and participated in other side events linked to the Water- Energy-Food (WEF) nexus in the context of Africa.
11	Mozambique National Forum on Rainy season	09 Septemb er 2022		SSSA and IIAM presented the forecasting results for the upcoming rainy season in the country
12	Conference: Copernicus Climate Change Service General Assembly	13-15 Septemb er 2022	https:// climate.copernicus.eu/ 5th-c3s-general- assembly	Related to WP5, WEMC gave an update on current / recent developments in available climate data (seasonal forecasts and projections) and products
13	Conference:	06-18	https://youtu.be/	WMO and EU sister project

	UNFCCC COP27	November 2022	gjiidS7lr8	coordinators organized two Side events in EU Pavillion and in Climate for Action Pavillion to showcase joint climate services work by the H2020 Sister Projects
14	Workshop: AU-EU innovation agenda stakeholder event	23-24 November 2022	https://aueu-innovationagenda-stakeholderevent.com/	SSSA attended the stakeholder event, which aim was to foster the discussion of a shared EU-AU research and innovation agenda
15	European Climate Change Adaptation Conference ECCA2023	19-21 June 2023	https://az659834.vo.msecnd.net/eventsairwesteuprod/production-ucc-public/7bef6e0e2c4445b9925098d3b61f9a02	EDF presented a poster of the CS7 activities and results: "Developing Climate services for Energy through the FOCUS-Africa project: hydropower resources application in Malawi"
16	2023 International Conference Energy and Meteorology	27-29 June 2023	https://www.wemcouncil.org/wp/icem2023/	WEMC, AMIGO, EDF, and WMO participated in the conference, with the first three partners presenting project results during the event.

For the upcoming event, several promising opportunities for contribution or attendance have been identified for consortium members, including:

- **WCRP Open Science Conference from 23-27 October 2023 in Kigali, Rwanda**
 - A significant presence from our consortium is anticipated at the WCRP Open Science Conference scheduled for October 23-27, 2023, in Kigali, Rwanda. Among the attendees, UKMO and several other consortium partners will actively participate and contribute presentations. This engagement underscores our commitment to disseminate the findings of the project and share the achieved advances in climate science, further solidifying our project's dedication to meaningful and impactful contributions within the field in the region.
- **UNFCCC COP28 in November and December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates**
 - Building upon the success of our involvement in COP27, we are exploring the feasibility of hosting a side-event at UNFCCC COP28. By replicating and enhancing the positive experience from our previous engagement, this side-event aims to facilitate even more impactful discussions, knowledge sharing, and collective action in addressing climate challenges in collaboration with other EU sister projects and key regional stakeholders.

2.6 Collaboration with regional projects and initiatives

2.6.1 Interactions with H2020 sister projects (CONFER and DOWN2EARTH)

The FOCUS-Africa project initiated a fruitful collaboration with the other two EU sister projects by establishing cross-project membership on advisory boards, with CONFER's Erik W.

Kolstad and Down2Earth's Michael Singer becoming advisory board's members of the project. Regular coordination meetings among project coordinators began in September 2021, later expanding to involve key staff actively involved in FOCUS-Africa project management. These discussions covered various topics such as opportunities for joint activities. Joint advocacy events were also explored, with a collective expression of interest in organizing side-events at COP27 to share information and experience from the projects and foster collaborative knowledge exchange.

In November 2022, the three EU sister projects hosted two side events during the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP27) in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt. The first event took place on November 14th at the WMO-IPCC-MERI Science pavilion, followed by the second event on November 16th at the European Union Pavilion. These sessions were skilfully moderated by Sebastian Grey, a Scientific Officer at the World Meteorological Organization and regional focal point for FOCUS-Africa. Across both side events, the three sister projects showcased a range of project outputs, including informative project videos, an innovative podcast series delving into the use of climate services, and practical demonstrations of how climate services are actively contributing to resilience and adaptation across various sectors. Figure Error: Reference source not found shows two selected photos of the side events. More information, as well as recorded videos can be found through the event's webpage here: <https://focus-africaproject.eu/2023/02/01/focus-africa-confer-down2earth-cop27-side-events-overview/>

Furthermore, an ongoing series of collaborative webinars with sister projects has been established and will continue over the next months. The inaugural webinar "The Future of Forecasting" took place on July 13, 2023, featuring a presentation by BSC on decadal forecasts (Figure Error: Reference source not found).

Finally, the team is currently exploring the potential for a collaborative **final conference in 2024** to mark the conclusion of the projects, taking into account the impact of the COVID pandemic on project timelines. The three coordinators have deliberated the notion of replicating the [African Climate Risks Conference \(ACRC 2019\)](#), but with a specific emphasis on Climate Services. This could manifest as an African Climate Services Conference in 2024. This joint conference might also capitalize on ongoing initiatives across the continent, including the Climate Risk early warning Initiative (CREWS), which encompasses projects in East, West, and Southern Africa, and the Climate Services and Related Applications Programme (CLIMSA) that also spans these three sub-regions.

2.6.2 Synergies with other regional initiatives and projects

Linkages and participation in meetings of related projects, particularly the CLIMSA project, which targets four sub-regions in Africa including the SADC region, have been pursued since the last report in February 2022. For instance, the African Centre for Meteorological Applications and Development (ACMAD), as a World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Climate Centre for Africa, organized the **second Africa Continental Climate Outlook Forum (ACCOF-02)** in March 2022, following the ACCOF-01 in February 2022. FOCUS-Africa participated as one of the supporting projects along with CLIMSA. The purpose of this second Forum was to improve the contribution of WMO Regional Climate Centres to early warning and disaster preparedness by regionalizing products from WMO designated Global Centres. The forum also facilitated technical discussions on continental climate drivers, interregional interactions, and reviewed October to January (ONDJ)

2021/22 seasonal climate. The outcome was a consensus climate outlook for March to June (MAMJ) 2022.

There is an ongoing communication between the project's Work Package 7 (WP7), focused on capacity development and the **Southern African Development Community Climate Service Centre (SADC-SCS)**, with the aim of establishing a collaborative and well-structured training plan. This partnership seeks to develop a comprehensive framework for training activities and ensure effective dissemination of project outcomes to countries within the region. By coordinating efforts, the project aims to enhance climate services and foster greater resilience in Southern Africa through targeted training initiatives.

During the 4th Stakeholders Workshop in Maputo, Mozambique, the team met with staff from the Swedish Meteorology and Hydrology Institute (SMHI) working on a project proposal (**Climate Resilient Development for Africa (CRD4Africa)**) for regional downscaling of CMIP6 climate scenarios for Africa, with the idea that this data will be integrated into the visualization platform developed by SMHI (www.climateinformation.org) and be combined with various capacity development initiatives for users. The project is in the development phase and organized an inception workshop in Maputo to help inform the project design. The project has many similarities with FOCUS-Africa and an offer was made by WMO to SMHI to collaborate on the intended project.

3 Communication and dissemination activities

3.1 Outreach and advocacy

The project's [website](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) pages were all set up in 2020 and are being used to share information on the project. A [Youtube Channel](#) for the project was created in 2021. LGI's Vimeo Channel has also been used for sharing some project related videos. Metrics from these web-platforms are being tracked along with those for other communication channels.

The project website stands as a cornerstone in effectively communicating the project's activities to the broader external community. Its significance lies not only in being a primary source of information but also in its role as a dynamic platform. This dynamism is achieved through the continuous updates that keep the portal in tune with the project's progress. Key elements such as non-confidential deliverables and scientific articles find their rightful place under the "Project Results" section, enriching the portal's repository of knowledge. Regularity takes center stage as the website remains ever-vibrant, with timely creation and publication of news stemming from the consortium's field trips and events. These news articles, complemented by insightful interviews and pertinent materials, provide an immersive experience, painting a vivid picture of the project's undertakings. Notably, the portal's success echoes through its increasing visitor count, which consistently surpasses the established Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as illustrated in table 2 under section 4. This achievement serves as a resounding validation of the portal's efficacy and the project's adept utilization of social media channels.

In the realm of virtual connectivity, the project takes its stride on not just one, but two impactful fronts: [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#). These platforms are harnessed for concise yet impactful news dissemination. Short news pieces, carefully curated and crafted, find their way onto these social media channels, extending the project's reach to even wider audiences. In these bits of information, the essence of the project's latest developments is encapsulated, engaging the online community and sparking conversations that reverberate in the digital sphere. This multi-pronged approach, seamlessly integrating the project website, social media platforms, and succinct news sharing, solidifies the project's presence and ensures that its resonance resounds far and wide. Figure Error:

Reference source not found shows screenshots of the website (top left: example of videos, top right: project results section with a list of deliverables and scientific articles) and social media channels (below left: LinkedIn, below right: Twitter) of the project.

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3.2 Visual materials

An array of impactful visual materials, ranging from insightful interviews and engaging podcasts to dynamic project posters and informative brochures, has been created since the last report on February 2022. These visual assets serve a dual purpose, not only enhancing communication to effectively convey project information to users but also extending their reach to aid in outreach and advocacy efforts. Through these visually engaging mediums, we strive to not only inform but also inspire and engage, fostering broader awareness and understanding of the project's objectives and accomplishments while actively advocating for its significance within relevant communities. Below is a list of the developed materials.

- **Poster/roll-up:** An updated project poster and roll-up (Figure Error: Reference source not found), giving an overview of the projects' partners, case studies, and sectors, was created in March 2023

- **Brochure:** A folded brochure (FigureError: Reference source not found) was designed in February 2023 to redirect to relevant project's resources and to be distributed during events
- **Videos:** 16 videos have been developed and are available on the FOCUS-Africa YouTube channel to share project updates and insights, including: i) **one-minute video for each case study (8 videos in total)** are produced to introduce the team and summarise the aims of each case study (August 2022); ii) **5 interview videos** from the 3rd Stakeholder workshop from consortium partners (November 2022); iii) **One general project video** giving an overview of the project's objectives and main challenges was released in February 2023 iv) **One video** shot during the Malawi field trip (March 2023) v) One video from the 4th Stakeholder workshop in Mozambique (to be published in September 2023)
- The **second and third newsletters** were published in May 2022 and April 2023, respectively, providing a summary of the conducted activities of the project ([Link to newsletters](#)).
- **Two editorials** by the project manager, Ms Roberta Boscolo, were published in May 2022 and April 2023 to give an overview of the advances of the project.

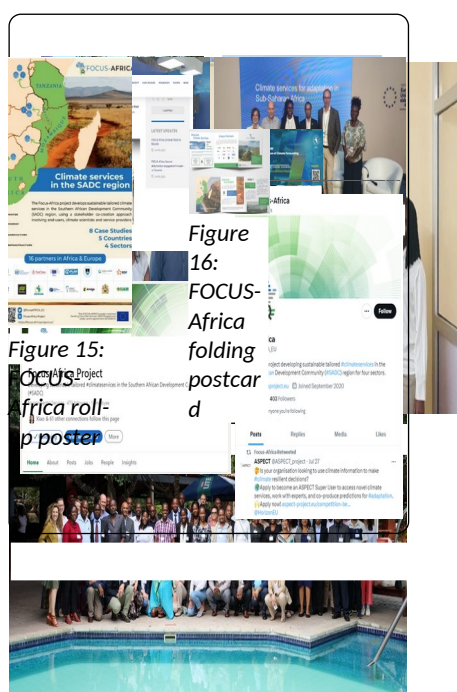


Figure 16: FOCUS-Africa folding poster

Figure 15: FOCUS-Africa rolling poster

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4 Metrics and evaluation

In order to enhance comprehension of the evaluation of accomplishments within communication and dissemination endeavours, table 1 presents pertinent statistics aligned with the set Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), outlined for various pivotal activities throughout the project's duration in the Communication and Dissemination Plan (D1.2) and its revised edition (D1.4).

As indicated, the accomplishments in most instances have exceeded the established KPIs. While stakeholders' workshops encountered challenges due to the constraints of the COVID-19 situation, the planned count could not be realized. However, field trips were arranged to fulfil the requirements of stakeholder engagement, serving as a substitute for the reduced number of workshops. Moreover, the 3rd and 4th Stakeholder Workshops were strategically scheduled for an entire week, encompassing consortium meetings and training sessions as a comprehensive offering, in contrast to the initial 1-2 day structure. This adjustment aimed to optimize interaction time among diverse attendees, resulting in a higher participant count than initially planned.

Table 2: Metrics and evaluation: Numbers of engaged users

Communication method	Frequency/ Target	Total Number of users reached since February 2022 (D1.3)	Total number of users reached since September 2020 (beginning of the project)
FOCUS-Africa website	20,000 visitors from 15 countries	42k visitors	60k visitors
Social media	500 social media followers	LinkedIn – 270 followers Twitter - 223 followers YouTube: 750 views	LinkedIn – 470 followers Twitter – 403 followers YouTube: 900 views
Newsletter	4 main newsletters plus workshop invitations 250 subscribers	2 Newsletters 55 new subscribers	Total since September 2020: 397
International conferences, GFCS PAC meetings, RCOFs, joint webinars (hosted at ICPAC)	As they occur 3 presentations for each Work Package Leader	14 events attended by the project's partners	Total 20 events
Meetings with sister projects	Monthly	Regular monthly meetings	18 virtual meetings reported in D1.3
Workshops	Every 8 months, 6 in total.	3 rd workshop (full week, hybrid format): 137 participants (70 in-person)	First workshop (Online): 64 participants Second workshop (Online): 200 participants Total: 264

		4 th workshop (full week, in-person)- 60 participants	Third and Fourth workshops
Targeted visits	As opportunity arise	6 field trips	7 field trips
Advisory Board meetings	every 8 months, 6 in total	1 AB meeting in 2022, AB members invited to the 4 th Stakeholders' workshop in 2023	3 AB meetings + AB members invited to the 4 th Stakeholders' workshop in 2023

5 Conclusion

Since the last report (D1.3) in February 2022, the project has consistently and effectively executed various communication, dissemination, and user engagement activities.

Due to improving COVID conditions and relaxed travel restrictions, the recent shift towards in-person stakeholder workshops has proven highly advantageous. These physical interactions provided project partners with a unique opportunity to engage directly with local stakeholders, fostering invaluable face-to-face discussions. The incorporation of in-person stakeholder workshops, which expanded into a comprehensive week of events encompassing consortium assembly meetings and training sessions, during the third and fourth workshops has played a crucial role in collaboratively refining climate service products through the integration of valuable stakeholder input.

Furthermore, the implementation of six additional targeted field trips to Mauritius, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, and South Africa has significantly deepened user engagement. These missions have not only enabled users to share their perspectives on the evolving products but have also facilitated a robust reflection of their needs within the developed solutions. Additionally, the field trips have been instrumental in gathering essential data for comprehensive socio-economic benefit analyses. This complementary activity, which was not originally planned in the project, exemplifies a concerted effort to establish a collaborative environment, bridging communication gaps, and ensuring that climate service products are not only user-centric but also aligned with sustainable development goals. By leveraging the advantages of in-person engagements and purposeful field trips, the project has continued to make substantial strides toward creating impactful and informed climate services.

The project's Advisory Board members have been consistently kept apprised of the project's ongoing activities, ensuring their continued involvement and guidance. Their insights and directions were particularly valuable during the final meeting before the third stakeholder workshop, setting the stage for focused and productive discussions during the workshop. As the project's evolution has shifted from initial guidance to encompass broader outreach and advocacy, the role of the Advisory Board has naturally evolved.

The project has achieved a broader level of engagement and advocacy by harnessing its diverse array of social media channels and actively participating in a range of external events and webinars. Collaborative efforts with regional partners and projects have further amplified these outreach initiatives, fostering a wider-reaching impact. As the project advances towards its culmination, there is a heightened emphasis on publishing journal articles and sharing the project's results in conferences and external events. This approach ensures that the project's achievements are

disseminated effectively, solidifying its impacts and promoting knowledge exchange within the relevant communities.

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