



---

## COP21 Africa pavilion event proposal

Date: 1 December Time: 10 am Venue: Africa Pavilion, Salle 2  
Queries can be directed to Jean-Pierre Roux at [jp@cdkn.org](mailto:jp@cdkn.org)

**TITLE:** How better climate science, information and services can inform development decision-making in Africa

### ABSTRACT

Sub-Saharan Africa is developing rapidly. Simultaneously, it is the only region where vulnerability to weather extremes is rising. The availability of high-quality climate information is a crucial foundation for effective climate risk management and adaptation. Yet challenges abound. Many parts of Africa currently have very weak climate information and services. The science is generally not available and where it is, it is not used. Investment in better climate information can provide an important, cost-effective opportunity to enhance well-being through more effective disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and development.

Central to any rationale for investing in improving climate information (both the fundamental science and decision support tools and products) for various African contexts is the answer to the question “**How could better climate science, information, and services improve development decision making?**”

This side event will speak to this question by showcasing the proposed work of the **Future Climate for Africa (FCFA)** programme. FCFA is a new five-year international research programme jointly funded by the UK’s Department for International Development and the Natural Environment Research Council to the value of GBP 20 million. The programme will support research to advance scientific knowledge, understanding and prediction of African climate variability and change on 5 to 40 year timescales, together with support for better integration of science into longer-term decision making. FCFA projects will be delivered through collaborative partnerships of the world’s best researchers drawing on African, British and other international institutions. The programme’s success will be measured by the way that its research generates new knowledge which can be used to benefit vulnerable African communities in a sustainable manner.

Choose an item

## PARTICIPANTS

Panelist Name	Organization/ Position	Email	Phone Number
Prof Declan Conway	Grantham Research Institute	<a href="mailto:d.conway@lse.ac.uk">d.conway@lse.ac.uk</a>	
Dr Richard Jones	MetOffice (UK)	<a href="mailto:richard.jones@metoffice.gov.uk">richard.jones@metoffice.gov.uk</a>	
Dr Benjamin Sultan	LOCEAN	<a href="mailto:benjamin.sultan@locean-ipsl.upmc.fr">benjamin.sultan@locean-ipsl.upmc.fr</a>	
Dr Ros Cornforth	University of Reading	<a href="mailto:r.j.cornforth@reading.ac.uk">r.j.cornforth@reading.ac.uk</a>	
Mr Jean-Pierre Roux	SouthSouthNorth	<a href="mailto:jp@cdkn.org">jp@cdkn.org</a>	
Mr Stef Raubenheimer	SouthSouthNorth	<a href="mailto:stef@southsouthnorth.org">stef@southsouthnorth.org</a>	
Ms Bettina Koelle	Red Cross Climate Centre	<a href="mailto:koelle@climatecentre.org">koelle@climatecentre.org</a>	

## EVENT PROGRAMME

Our side event will take a more informal “talk show” format, where panelist prepare short responses (max 3 minutes per response) to a series of scripted questions. These questions are structured to reach the stated objectives of the side event and capitalize on the expertise in the panel, while keeping the audience engaged. All sessions will be moderated by Stef Raubenheimer, Director of SouthSouthNorth Projects Africa, and Lead of the FCFA Coordination Unit. A detailed breakdown of the agenda follows.

	<b>Introduction</b>
5 min	Opening address: Stef Raubenheimer
	<b>Session 1</b>
15 min	Title: WHY FCFA? Ground breaking science and development impact 5 Questions – All panelists
	<b>Session 2</b>
20 min	Title: WHAT will FCFA do? FCFA thematic and geographic focal areas 5 Questions – All panelists
10 min	Questions from the floor
	<b>Session 3</b>
20 min	Title: HOW will FCFA work? Approaches to ensuring uptake of climate information in development decisions in different African contexts 5 Questions – All panelists
15 min	Questions from the floor
5 min	<b>Closing address</b>

## DETAILED AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL – FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY)

#	Question	Respondent
Cluster 1: WHY FCFA? Ground breaking science and development impact, 15 min		
1	Future Climate For Africa is one of the biggest single investments in climate science research for Africa. What is novel and significant about it?	Jean-Pierre Roux
2	A big part of the research will aim to improve climate forecasts for the medium and long term, i.e. 5-40 years. What is the potential importance of this timeframe for decision makers and planners?	Declan Conway
3	As both a climate scientist and a lead figure in communicating climate information to decision makers in various African contexts, in your opinion what are the big climate science priorities for Africa?	Richard Jones
4	Decision makers have to make tough decisions like how to allocate financial resources to agricultural development or a water management scheme or infrastructure. How do you bridge the fact that climate science for Africa is a live area of research with disputes and contradictions, with the demand to deliver robust information to decision makers?	Ros Cornforth
Cluster 2: WHAT WILL FCFA DO? FCFA thematic and geographic focal areas 20 min		
1	Given the ambitious objectives highlighted, how is the programme structured to achieve impact? What is the scope of the project and who is funding it?	Jean-Pierre Roux
2	FRACTAL has a strong focus on cities, could you describe some of the work you hope to do in Windhoek, Lusaka and Maputo?	Bettina Koelle
3	Your research consortium (HyCRISTAL) is working in East Africa, with a predominant usage focus of rural livelihoods, urban sanitation, and integrated water resource management. Can you briefly tell us a bit more about these case studies?	Ros Cornforth
4	Your consortium is continuing more than a decade of research to understand the West African monsoon through the AMMA programme, how will the work under FCFA add to this?	Benjamin Sultan
5	You are working in southern Malawi and Tanzania, with a particular focus on water resource management, please tell us what you hope to achieve in these contexts, both in terms of improving the science and usage of climate information?	Declan Conway

5	IMPALA will focus its energy on improving global climate models. What exactly does this entail?	Richard Jones
Question from the floor - 10 min		
Cluster 3: HOW WILL FCFA DO IT? Approaches to ensuring uptake of climate information in development decisions in different African contexts, 20 min		
1	We've now broadly discussed the "WHY?" and the "WHAT?" of FCFA, let's explore the different approaches to how FCFA will address development goals. You have extensive experience on the African continent working with development agendas and decision makers. How has the approach to integrating climate information into development decisions evolved over the years?	Declan Conway
2	FRACTAL looking closely at the co-exploration of knowledge with partners at the city level. Won't you tell us more about the co-exploration approach?	Bettina Koelle
3	AMMA-2050 is aiming to inform both urban planning as well as rural agricultural livelihoods. How will your engagements with the different sets of stakeholders and issues shape your engagement approach?	Benjamin Sultan
4	What is HyCRISTAL's engagement strategy in East Africa?	Ros Cornforth
5	We've focused on the use of climate information in very specific decision contexts in the FCFA case studies. How will your research add value to decision makers at a regional and pan-African level?	Richard Jones
6	A central output of FCFA is to develop the capacity of early career researchers in Africa. What are the main challenges in developing scientific capacity in Africa and how will FCFA address these?	Jean-Pierre Roux
Questions from the floor - 15 min		