



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



Title: The Status of Climate Observations in Africa

Friday, December 4

10:00 – 11:30

Venue: Salle 1, Africa Pavilion

Abstract

Climate observations are vital for understanding and planning for climate change, both at the global scale and more locally. Improving observations remains a challenge. Technical and financial resources are limited. The need for planning for climate adaption is placing new requirements on observations. However, there remain gaps in the observational coverage of Africa.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) calls on Parties to promote and cooperate in systematic observation of the climate system, including through support to existing international programmes and networks (Articles 4.1(g) and 5). Implementation is supported through cooperation with the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). The Status Report of the Global Observing System for Climate was prepared in response to an invitation from SBSTA and has been delivered to SBSTA43, COP21, at Paris in 2015.

GCOS has identified 50 Essential Climate Variables (ECV) that are needed to monitor the components of the global climate system. ECVs are required to support the work of the UNFCCC and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

While the Status Report outlines significant improvements, there are still gaps and limitations in African monitoring. GCOS, through its cooperation mechanism has provided support and assistance to fill some of these gaps, most recently in Madagascar, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

A new GCOS Implementation Plan is to be delivered to the Parties in 2016 that would improve adaptive capacity in Africa through improved observations.

Panellist Name	Organization/Position
Jeremiah Lengoasa	Deputy Secretary General, World Meteorological Organization , WMO
Youba Sokona	South Centre, Member of the GCOS Steering Committee
Stephen Briggs	European Space Agency, Chairman of the GCOS Steering Committee
Carolin Richter	GCOS, Director
Simon Eggleston	GCOS, Senior Scientific Officer
Tim Oakley	GCOS, Cooperation Mechanism, Network Manager

5 min.

Introduction

Jeremiah Lengoasa, Deputy Secretary General, WMO

Presentations

10 min.

The GCOS Programme
Carolin Richter, Director, GCOS, and Stephen Briggs, Chairman of the GCOS Steering Committee

20 min.

GCOS Status Report: Need for observations and their current status in Africa
Simon Eggleston, Senior Scientific Officer, GCOS

20 min.

Improving Observational Capacity in Africa: GCOS in Madagascar, Zimbabwe and Zambia
Tim Oakley, GCOS Cooperation Mechanism

15 min.

Africa Perspectives on Climate Observations
Youba Sokona, South Centre

20 min.

Exchange with audience

Chair: Youba Sokona, South Centre
Exchange with presenters on issues raised in presentations



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