



CS4RRA
Climate Services for Risk Reduction in Africa

FACTSHEET

CS4RRA Stocktaking Conference

Banjul, The Gambia | 5-6 November 2024

INTRODUCTION

West African nations face pressing climate-related challenges, including environmental degradation, desertification, rainfall variability, extreme heatwaves, floods, and declining agricultural productivity. The accelerating impacts of climate change, along with global stressors like population growth and urbanization, exacerbate land degradation, chronic poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

Climate Services for Risk Reduction in Africa (CS4RRA) was launched by France and Germany, in collaboration with West African institutions, including ACMAD, AGRHYMET/CILSS, WASCAL, and African Centres of Excellence. This initiative aims to enhance climate resilience through Knowledge, Innovation, and Capacity Building (KIC), leveraging achievements from previous EU and AU programs (e.g., H2020, JPI Climate/SINCERE, Copernicus CCS).

MILESTONES LEADING TO THE CONFERENCE

- **Webinars:** Four hybrid webinars were hosted in West Africa, with 600–750 academic and non-academic participants. These sessions identified critical gaps and issues in climate services for risk reduction.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Government representatives emphasized the importance of holding these discussions in Africa to contextualize local needs and perspectives, promoting ownership and sustainability in future CS4RRA actions.

STOCKTAKING CONFERENCE GOALS

The conference will gather policymakers, academia, donors, international agencies, and other climate service stakeholders to:

- Review and endorse critical research, innovation, and capacity-building efforts.
- Explore potential multilateral cooperation to support climate service research for risk management, resilience, and adaptation.
- Strengthen European-African collaboration for sustainable climate risk reduction.

The key themes from the CS4RRA webinars highlighted the need for significant improvements in data, modeling, and forecasting through advanced technologies like artificial intelligence to enhance early warning systems. Collaborative research, innovation, and capacity-building are crucial for developing effective climate services, while citizen science offers valuable socio-economic data by involving communities in data collection. Integrating scientific and indigenous knowledge, particularly in local languages, alongside interdisciplinary cooperation and long-term partnerships is vital for addressing climate challenges holistically. Climate services should be co-designed with end-users to ensure accessibility and relevance, supported by robust policy frameworks, project alignment with regional development goals, and sustainable funding strategies for ongoing implementation.

CS4RRA CONFERENCE

The conference will set the groundwork for launching a multilateral call in 2025, focusing on research, innovation, and capacity development in West Africa. With the JPI-Climate funders confirmed, this event aims to expand the funding circle to include African contributors. Further high-level discussions will explore a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) in 2025-26, potentially funded by the European Commission, to extend co-design efforts to other African regions.

LONG-TERM VISION

CS4RRA seeks to build a Long-Term European-African Partnership on Climate Risk Reduction and Adaptation (LEAP-CRRA). This initiative aligns with the AU-EU CCSE Partnership, AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue on STI, the AU-EU Innovation Agenda, and global climate service frameworks, supporting a sustainable response to climate challenges across Africa.

Implementers



Funders

