

Achievements of the Programme of Meteorological Cooperation with West Africa countries



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Weather • Climate • Water

Afrimet

Conference of Directors of the West African National
Meteorological and Hydrological Services

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Achievements of the Programme of Meteorology

AFRIMET, the Programme of Cooperation with National Meteorological Services of West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo) has been developed with a series of action plans, which have been proposed and approved by the Conference itself at its annual meetings since 2007. The action plans are organised on the basis of strategic goals and specific projects, with those concerning marine safety, food safety and improving health (MARINEMET, METAGRI and HEALTHMET) worthy of being highlighted. This is all paid for by a seed fund which was set up by Spain in the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

Amongst others, the following achievements can be highlighted:

MARINEMET

Planned up to 2013 as a pilot project for 4 countries (Cape Verde, Gambia, Mauritania and Senegal) whose results can be extrapolated to the 11 coastal countries in a subsequent operational phase.

The philosophy behind the project is to transfer technology and start up a basic measuring network in the 4 countries for meteorological, marine and oceanographic factors, all within the scope of marine and food (fishing) safety.

Participate with AEMET and State Ports (Ministry of Development), the partnering organisation. Members of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria University have been hired as consultants among others.

The result of the pilot project will be to establish a network which is capable of analysing and predicting the condition of the sea (waves and wind) both in open sea and coastal areas (20 miles) and in port areas (tide gauges).

- A combination of oceanographic and open sea wave and wind modelling products are currently distributed to the countries.
- The specialists from the project's 4 countries have been given professional training in Marine Meteorology;
- The bathymetry of the coastal areas has been modelled
- The modelling of waves in shallow waters and ports is underway
- The process of acquiring the measuring equipment is underway: tide gauges and automatic weather stations.



logical Cooperation with West Africa countries

METAGRI

Pilot project in the field of food safety. Aimed at sharing science-based farming knowledge which takes into account meteorological parameters when planning crops with the farmers from all of the countries in which AFRIMET is active.

- The initial module is based on holding roving seminars in places selected by the countries. Distributing rain gauges, notebooks and basic teaching on meteorology and agronomic techniques has been received very positively in the countries according to the reports which have been received.
- Additional modules are being prepared to evaluate and analyse agro-meteorological networks, to carry out a feasibility study for establishing an operational agro-meteorological service in the countries.

HEALTHMET

A pilot project aimed at instilling the experience of the WMO in Somalia and Madagascar in order to approve institutional abilities and the links between the meteorological, climatological and health services. Concerning the meningitis belt and how this is aggravated by dust particles in the atmosphere, and other diseases such as malaria whose vectors are influenced by meteorological factors.

So far the following activities have been completed:

- Exploratory meeting to establish the project, in Niamey (Niger)
- Proposal to create Climate-Health work groups in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria
- Hiring of expert consultant to prepare the action plan
- Training of experts (Niger and Burkina Faso in IRI University, NY)
- Training course on dust and sand products (SDS-WAS)
- Preparation of the two biggest national climate-health work groups in Burkina Faso and Mauritania

EMERMET

The NMHS's of Ivory Coast, Togo, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone have received technical equipment (infrastructure for ground-based or upper air meteorological observation, computer equipment).

MANAGEMET

3 seminars have been held which were aimed at the managers of the meteorological services, on the subjects of management techniques, the preparation of strategic plans, marketing, etc.

Awareness of AFRIMET

➤ WMO institutional website

The World Meteorological Organisation considers two of the AFRIMET projects to be a success on a list on which there are 3 additional cases.

The successful AFRIMET projects are: the roving seminars on Agro-meteorology in West Africa (METAGRI) and the Marine Meteorological project in the waters of West Africa (MARINEMET).

➤ In West African countries

Numerous reports from the West African National Meteorological Services reflect the opportunity provided by activities planned by AFRIMET and the positive results they produce for societies. For example, the setting up of the aerological probes in Guinea Conakry, amongst others.

➤ AFRIMET website

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