

FOURTH MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF WEST AFRICAN NMHSs

Santa Maria, Sal Island, Cape Verde – 10 -12 March, 2011

REPORT

THE CONTEXT

1. The Directors of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of West African Countries adopted the “Las Palmas Action Plan” within the framework of the Cooperation Programme financed by the Kingdom of Spain in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in October 2007. The overall objective of the Action Plan is “to enhance the capacity of the NMHSs of West and North African countries and provide them with the relevant tools that will enhance the delivery of products and services to various socio-economic sectors and thereby allow them to contribute to the sustainable development of their respective countries and enhance the delivery of products and services to the various socioeconomic sectors”.
2. The Kingdom of Spain in pursuit of its support through the WMO, to African Cooperation Programme and together with the State Meteorological Agency of Spain (AEMET), the INMG and WMO hosted a meeting in Santa Maria, Sal Island, Cape Verde, from 10 to 12 March, 2011.
3. The meeting was attended by the Directors of NMHSs of West African countries and some invited regional organizations, namely ACMAD, AGRHYMET and ASECNA. Mr. Francisco Correia, Administrator of the National Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics (INMG), chaired the opening ceremony in the presence of the Minister for the Environment, Rural Development and Marine Resources --- Mr. José Maria Veiga, the President of INMG and Permanent Representative of Cape Verde with WMO, Ms. Ester Araujo de Brito, the WMO representative, Mr. Robert Masters, and Mr. Ricardo Garcia Herrera, President of AEMET. The complete list of participants is attached as **Annex 1**.

4. The objectives of the meeting were to:
 - Review decisions made at Las Palmas in October 2007, including the progress made in 2010 against the actions identified in the Banjul Action Plan
 - Agree on ongoing and additional actions and mechanisms of cooperation during the 2011 period
 - Revise the Action Plan as appropriate
 - Explore new areas of work

5. The meeting discussed the different issues in Meteorology including climate change in the West African region. The various agenda items discussed by the meeting are attached as **Annex 2**.

6. The meeting reviewed the progress made on the activities of the Banjul Action Plan, took note that many actions were ongoing.

7. The meeting considered the Banjul consolidated plan in the three strategic lines as follows:
 - a. Core Technical Capacity Building Activities will include:
 - Regional meteorological telecommunication network improvements
 - Satellite products usage capacity building
 - Climate change monitoring and reports capacity building
 - Numerical weather prediction capacity building
 - b. Applied technical capacity building activities:
 - MARINEMET
 - METAGRI Phase 3
 - HEALTHMET
 - c. Managerial capacity building activities:
 - EMERMET
 - Feasibility study of Regional Marine Meteorology operational service
 - Feasibility of Agrometeorology operational service

- Feasibility study of Hydrometeorological Warning Sub-regional Virtual Desk (ALERMET)
 - Report on AEMET to become an advanced meteorological training centre
 - Fellowship programme
 - Website www.afrimet.org
 - Support for NMHS Strategic Plan consolidation
 - French e-learning platform
 - First African Ministerial Conference
8. A presentation on the outcome of the Sixteenth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Cancun, Mexico in December 2010 was made by the Malian delegate. It was well received as it provided information on the status of negotiations of issues under the Convention as well as brought out the available opportunities in terms of funding that NMHSs may wish to tap into.
9. From the above presentations, the meeting expressed gratitude from their Governments, to the Kingdom of Spain and WMO for the unique opportunity accorded to the enhancement of NMHSs in West Africa and further called on the Program secretariat to:
- Improve the communication between the Program secretariat and the Countries (Permanent Representatives); and optimize the use of the web site www.afrimet.org as the main managerial tool for programme control.
 - Involve countries more in the development of products in order to ensure sustainability;
 - Involve the regional climate centres, ACMAD and AGRHYMET, as alternative venues for capacity building;
 - Involve countries in the selection of envisaged equipment to be installed by the project;
 - Meet the basic capacity building needs of countries in terms of equipment and qualified personnel to ensure the sustainability of the project;

- Build the capacity of NMHSs in climate change issues and processes in order to provide them the required tools for preparation and submission of project proposals to the UNFCCC existing funding mechanisms.
- Submit all reports needed for the meeting to countries prior to sessions;
- The inclusion of the other countries of the region in the MARINEMET project will be considered, taking into consideration the proposal in the current plan for the operational marine service in the region;
- Pay special attention towards the implementation of the METAGRI project in all countries beyond the 'roving seminars';

10. The Directors of the West African NMHSs adopted the new name "AFRIMET" for the Spanish Cooperation Project to the region. A logo was also adopted by the meeting.

11. The WMO made a presentation on the recently approved Adaptation Fund under UNFCCC, highlighting the opportunities for resource mobilization in support of capacity development in favour of NMHSs. The meeting encourages WMO to consider submitting a proposal on MarineMet, MetAgri and Capacity Development in the West African subregion that would involve as many countries as possible.

12. The Directors of the West African NMHSs presented the activities under implementation in their various countries in relation to the Banjul Action Plan, and also made proposals for consideration under the Spanish Cooperation Programme, AFRIMET.

13. The major output of the meeting was an agreed Sal Work Plan for 2011 (**Annex 3**).

14. The Conference of Directors expressed their gratitude to the Government of Cape Verde and the Permanent Representative with WMO, Ms. Ester

Araujo de Brito for the excellent hosting of the meeting. Delegates also expressed their gratitude to WMO and to the Kingdom of Spain.

15. It was agreed that the next meeting of Directors of NMHSs of West African countries will take place in Madrid, Spain in February 2012.