

Africa Climate Conference 2013 Agrees Research Agenda

Scientists working in and on African climate and user community representatives have crafted a common climate research agenda to inform decision-making, climate risk management and adaptation planning in Africa.

More than 300 delegates at [the Africa Climate Conference 2013 \(ACC2013\)](#) in Arusha, Tanzania, 15-18 October, adopted a [statement](#) identifying four priority areas for research in order to address critical gaps in our understanding of the African climate system and to bridge the divide between climate science and policy:

- Co-designed multi-disciplinary research for improving climate forecast skill and reliability, across different time and spatial scales
- Filling the climate data gap
- Capacity building at all levels
- Mainstreaming climate services into decision making
- The statement also stressed the need for a platform to coordinate major climate research initiatives working on Africa and to sustain implementation of the African climate research agenda.

The outcome of the Arusha conference, the first of its kind, will inform debate at the Third Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-III) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 21-23 October 2013. The theme of this year's conference is "Africa on the rise: can the opportunities from climate change spring the continent to transformative development".

WMO Deputy Secretary-General Jerry Lengoasa delivered keynote addresses at both conferences, highlighting the role of the [Global Framework for Climate Services](#) and the [African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology](#).



Winners of the ACC2013 WCRP Best Poster awards with Conference celebrities, from left to right: Claire Davis (South Africa), Tatiana Arivelo (Madagascar), Prof Pius Yanda, WCRP JSC member and Chair of the Selection Committee, Daniel Mengistu (Ethiopia), Jackson Efitre (Uganda), Valery Detemmerman, WCRP, Conference Co-chair Dr Arame Tall, First Prize Winner Salack Seyni (Niger), Co-chair Dr Seleshi Bekele, Dr Agnes Kijazi, PR to WMO for Tanzania, and Lorenzo Carrera (Italy).

"The Africa Climate Conference 2013 has proposed an ambitious and coherent research agenda for Climate Research to serve development in Africa, resting on innovative proposals for pan-African research programs that each propose to bridge the gap between social and biophysical research, and between research and application," said Agnes Kijazi, Director-General of the Tanzania Meteorological Agency, summing up the outcomes of the meeting.

"It is my great hope that this African agenda for climate research will now serve as blueprint for coordinating climate research investments in Africa, towards delivery of a coordinated climate research agenda for Africa that brings research outputs together with user needs," said Dr Kijazi.

The Africa Climate Conference was organized under the auspices of the [World Climate Research Programme \(WCRP\)](#), the African Climate Policy Center (ACPC) and the University of Dar Es Salaam.