

UMFULA will generate higher quality, more useful information about the future climate and its impacts, and to make climate information more tailored and accessible to planners. The Malawi UMFULA team continues to research the demand for climate services and opportunities for using climate information in planning. In the last six months research visits with non-Malawi-based team members took place in December 2016 and March 2017.

ACTIVITIES SINCE OCTOBER 2016

1. Undertaken a national and regional (SADC) analysis of policy development timelines around climate, disasters, agriculture and water.
2. Commenced investigation of the evolving institutional structures and political priorities of key policy-makers in driving policy development in these fields.
3. Continued development of an open-access "Water Evaluation And Planning" System (WEAP) integrated model for water resources assessment under climate change, including consultations and validation exercises with the Departments of Irrigation and Surface Water and the Shire River Basin Management Programme.
4. Partnered with the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services regarding the production of a climate change profile for Malawi, identifying the preferred content and format for information.
5. Developed insights for improving climate modelling for southern Africa, based on improved understanding of how the Angola Low (low pressure atmospheric system) affects rainfall in the region, and how variability in models can be reduced by using an alternative technique (qflux methodology).
6. Participated in several international conferences, including:
 - Fifth International Conference on Climate Services, presenting a keynote address (Dr David Mkwambisi) and two posters (on regional information needs for climate services and experiences of co-production to understand user needs for climate information);
 - Future Earth Water-Energy-Food nexus workshop (co-organised by Professor Graham Jewitt of the University of Kwazulu Natal), presenting a keynote address (Professor Declan Conway).
7. With additional funding, conducted field research in Machinga, Balaka and Thyolo that found greater resilience of CA farmers to El Niño drought compared to those using conventional methods.

PUBLICATIONS AND OUTPUTS (all available at www.futureclimateafrica.org/UMFULA)

Video clip-[Introduction to UMFULA's work in Malawi and Tanzania](#) by Declan Conway

Working paper-[Climate change adaptation and cross-sectoral policy coherence in southern Africa](#) by Matthew England, Andrew Dougill, Lindsay Stringer, Katharine Vincent, Joanna Pardoe, Felix Kalaba, David Mkwambisi and Emilina Namaganda

Briefing paper-[Climate models: what they show us and how they can be used in planning](#)

Briefing paper-[Gender, agriculture and climate change in Malawi](#)

Keynote address-[Capacity building for climate services: Re-thinking current and future development](#) by David Mkwambisi at the 5th International Conference on Climate Services, Cape Town, 28 February-2 March 2017

Report-[Africa's Climate](#). Series of fact sheets by members of the Future Climate For Africa consortium

Blog-[Capitalising on communication channels. How Malawi uses WhatsApp for weather communication](#) by Katharine Vincent

Blog and paper-[Circulation controls on southern African precipitation in coupled models: The role of the Angola Low](#) by Callum Munday and Richard Washington

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

1. Identification of particular climate information of interest to commercial sugar farmers and small-scale farmers in Chikwawa district for planning.
2. Investigating gender differences in access to sugar outgrower schemes in Chikwawa district
3. Investigating the role of climate change training in implementation of adaptation projects.
4. Demonstrating a working version of the WEAP model to officials in June 2017.

